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# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 1, 2015

North & West edition No 684

## POLICE

### Pressure grows on Ann Barnes

Demand for PCC to  
reveal election plans

## BUSINESS

### Manston saga's fresh twist

Tories vow to form coalition  
to secure a CPO

## REGENERATION

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Theatre and shopping centre  
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## EVENTS

# Fireworks frenzy

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# Kent on Sunday

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## Let's put the bang back into our fireworks night

WHEN Halloween first came floating across the Atlantic to stake a claim as a major event in the UK - primarily through the execution of the dreaded trick or treat craze - we all tutted and went back to building a nice Guy in our back garden.

Fireworks and bonfires, after all, were our autumnal festival of choice. Forget free sweets, we preferred a jacket potato and a bowl of hot soup while we watched relatives risk losing a thumb as they tried to light a temperamental rocket stuck in a milk bottle in the garden.

But today things have changed. Those who watched the film ET and wanted in on trick or treating now have children of their own and that generational switch has seen the harsh edges of the custom softened. There are still some idiots about; teenagers who think the 'trick' bit is actually an option as opposed to an



Editor **Chris Britcher**

empty threat, but mostly now it's young children dressing up, having fun and hoping they may get a few fun-sized Milky Ways from friendly neighbours.

The consequence, however, is that fireworks have lost, pardon the pun, something of their sparkle. After years of being told of the dangers, we tend not to have them in our backyards and now all trudge in the dark to watch an organised display and then spend the next hour trying to get out of the car park. Little wonder knocking on doors for free chocolate is beginning to win the battle.

But bonfire night is so rich in British history and a common component in the memories of generations, it is something we should cherish and seek to protect.

So we'll embrace trick or treating, but surely we should ensure our main love remains forever November 5.

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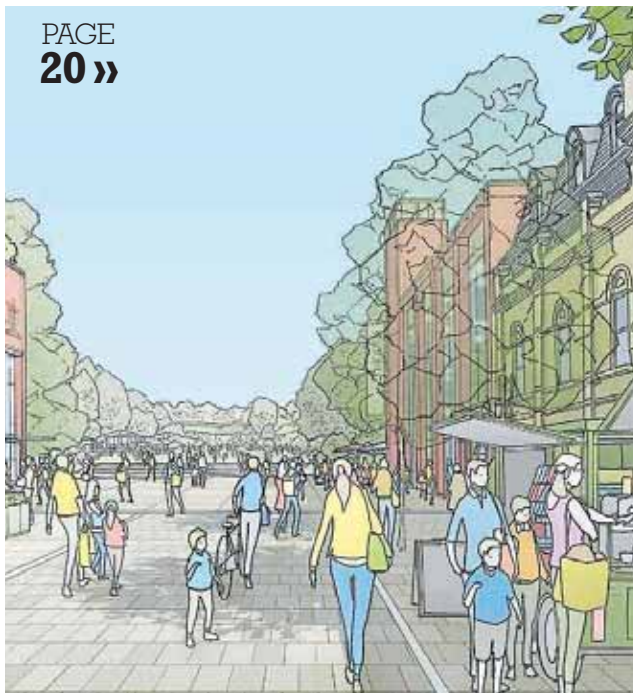
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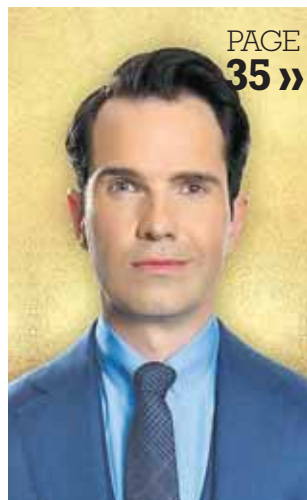
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## Winter ambulance plan is blasted by regulator

By Jamie Weir

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AMBULANCE chiefs insist steps have already been taken to rectify a "serious" complaint levelled at a project it ran earlier this year in a bid to ease pressure on its services.

The South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (Secamb) found itself admonished by healthcare regulator Monitor this week for the manner in which it deployed a scheme which saw some calls - those for issues which may be life-threatening but were less time critical - made to the NHS 111 number transferred to the 999 emergency service system.

The ambulance trust, which covers Kent, Sussex, Surrey and parts of Hampshire, bought itself up to 10 minutes extra to assess treatment and decide on ambulance deployment as a result.

It was in place between December 2014 and February of this year.

Monitor said there was a 'clear failure of management processes' stating it also appeared the trust's board was not fully aware of the changes. The regulator says as a



**CONCERN:** Secamb bosses insist changes have been made to ensure no repeat of problems

result of its findings, it has 'concerns about how the trust is being run and how decisions are being taken'. Most concerning, Monitor said that the trust could have even been in breach of its licence to provide NHS services.

Chief executive of Secamb, Paul Sutton said he accepted the findings were serious, but stressed that action was being taken to address the healthcare regulator's concerns.

Mr Sutton said: "The process

was undertaken to ensure that the right response was provided to patients and that we were able to respond promptly to the most seriously ill patients."

"However we recognise that it was not well implemented and we did not use our own corporate governance processes correctly. These are serious findings.

"We have already begun to take steps to address Monitor's concerns and as part of this process,

independent reviews will assess how decisions are made within the trust, governance processes and our approach to patient safety."

Monitor said it would be commissioning a review into the way the trust had handled the project.

Paul Streat, regional director at Monitor, said: "This project was poorly managed from the start, done without the proper authorisation and without enough thought given to how it might affect patients."

## Fire service braces itself to find £8m in savings over the next four years

THE impact of funding cuts is likely to force the Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) to find savings of £8million over the next four years.

The service has no plans to close any stations, but it says it needs to look at the changing risks around the county, as well as a drop in demand for services. There has been a 50 per cent reduction in the need for fire services over the past decade.

KFRS says that it has been examining ways to modernise the service in order to save money, but it is likely to need to make yet more savings over the next few years.

More flexible shift patterns alongside new ways of working have saved the service cash and it is currently trialling a new scheme to move some crews closer to risk areas during the day, such as main roads.

The service - which has its budget set by the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority - has opened a public consultation to find out what we think. It will ask whether the

service should ask for a council tax rise, with options of a freeze, increase of just under two per cent, or a rise of over two per cent - which would trigger a public referendum.

Nick Chard, chairman of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority said: "We need to provide that safe and efficient service while balancing changing local needs, falling demand - thanks to our community safety investment - and a reducing budget.

"We will know the exact amount of government funding allocated to us in December 2015. We expect to have to make savings of around £8 million over the next four years.

The service is looking to extend its partnership working with other organisations like the South East Coast Ambulance Service (Secamb).

The consultation runs from November 16 to January 18 2016. Comments can be made through the fire service's website at [www.kent.fire-uk.org](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org)

## Bizarre crash and stabbing probe on Birchington street

POLICE want to hear from anyone who can help a major investigation into a serious assault in Birchington, near Margate, during which a motorist claimed he was stabbed by a couple he was giving a lift to.

The incident occurred at 10pm on Tuesday October 13 in Canterbury Road when police attended a minor car crash. The victim was flown by air ambulance to a London hospital.

Prior to the collision he picked a man and woman up outside his work place in Channel Road, Margate. He then dropped them off at the junction of Prospect Road and Westfield Road, in Birchington. As the passengers were departing the vehicle, the man attempted to steal the victim's wallet before allegedly stabbing him in the side following a short struggle.

## Walk of Britain strides on to Buckingham Palace finale

SIX wounded veterans hit the streets of the county this week en route to Buckingham Palace today, where their remarkable 1,000-mile, 72-day expedition around the county will finish.

Travelling from Scotland to London, the six all have either physical or cognitive injuries sustained in the line of duty.

Walking through more than 150

towns, this week saw them walk from Aylesford to Horsmonden, and then from the centre of Tunbridge Wells to Hever Castle.

The Walk of Britain aims to raise awareness and funds for Walking With The Wounded which seeks to train and re-educate those injured while in the services.

It is set to conclude at the Queen's residence in London today.





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## Colleges back bid for reallocation of funding

KENT colleges have welcomed calls for the government to boost funding to further education by diverting some £532 million from universities.

The Kent Association of Further Education Colleges (KAFEC) - which includes Ashford, Canterbury, Hadlow, MidKent, North Kent, East Kent and West Kent colleges back a report by think tank Policy Exchange

calling on the Department for Business Innovation and Skills to inject cash into college coffers.

Graham Razey, chairman of KAFEC, said: "If the government is to achieve its welfare into work strategy and tackle the skills gaps in many of our technical industries, it must make the training of the current generation a national priority."



**RECOVERING:** Bob Mortimer

## Comedy star Bob cancels shows after op

COMEDIAN Bob Mortimer is recovering this weekend after undergoing a triple bypass heart operation.

The star, who has lived in Kent for many years - first near Ashford and now in Tunbridge Wells - is best known for being one half of madcap comedy duo Vic and Bob alongside Vic Reeves, who lives in Charing.

The surgery has forced the first leg of the pair's eagerly anticipated 25th anniversary tour to be cancelled.

Mortimer, 56, had been due to take to the stage in Glasgow in a fortnight for the start of the sell-out shows.

Neil Reading, spokesman for Mortimer, said: "Bob would like to thank his consultant and all the nursing staff at the hospital for looking after him so well.

"He now needs several weeks to fully recover, so unfortunately the first leg of the UK tour will be cancelled.

"Bob very much hopes to be fit and well enough to perform the second leg in January next year."

Mortimer's comedy partner Reeves said: "I'm so pleased the operation has gone well and Bob is fixed." All ticket holders for performances from November 8 to December 4 are advised to contact their point of purchase for a full refund. It is hoped the January and February 2016 shows will go ahead.

## Heartache as Connor, 9, swept to his death after playing on rocks at beach

**By Tom Pyman**

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TRIBUTES have been paid this week to a nine-year-old boy who died after a wave swept him off rocks on a Dymchurch beach and pulled him under the water.

The half-term tragedy occurred on Tuesday afternoon as Connor McDonald was playing near Hythe Road.

Desperate attempts to rescue him by a brave dog walker who witnessed the drama, failed to save his life. The rescuer, who dragged the boy's body from the water, himself had to be saved by ambulance crews.

Connor McDonald, who attended Furley Park primary school in Kingsnorth, Ashford, and also played for Ashford United's under-10 football team, was rushed to the William Harvey Hospital but died later that night.

Paul Ketley, principal at Connor's school, said: "This is a terrible tragedy that has left Furley Park shocked and devastated.



**TRAGEDY:** Waves pulled Connor in

"Our thoughts and sympathies are with Connor's family and friends. He was a popular and fun member of our school community and a talented young sportsman.

"He touched the lives and hearts

of all who knew him; he will be missed terribly."

A spokesperson for the South East Coast Ambulance Service said: "We received a call at about 1pm to respond to reports that a boy needed urgent medical attention, having been pulled from the water.

"We attended with three ambulances, two cars and the air ambulance and continued resuscitation attempts before he was taken by road to hospital in a life-threatening condition."

Matthew Crittenden, of Littlestone Royal National Lifeboat Institution, was at the scene and said: "The lifeboat and its volunteer crew were sent to the Martello Tower area of Dymchurch to a report of persons in the water.

"On arrival one of the casualties, a young boy, was out of the water being treated by paramedics. One of our lifeboat crew was put ashore to assist. It was with a heavy heart we heard that he had died.

"Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time."

## Gritters all set for the big winter freeze

AS BOOKMAKERS slash the odds of a white Christmas this year, Kent County Council says its gritting team are ready for whatever the winter weather throws at them.

Kent Highways' winter service was officially launched this week, and followed a dry run last month as gritters took to the road to practice the routes they will take when the temperature drops below zero.

They were joined at County Hall in Maidstone by Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Services and the NHS to showcase their preparedness for the cold months ahead.

KCC cabinet member for transport, Matthew Balfour, said: "We're stocked up with 23,000 tonnes of salt, held in a network of depots across the county. I'd also urge people to be prepared themselves for the winter months by checking over their cars, particularly brakes, topping up anti-freeze and ensuring their tyres are in the best condition for maximum safety."

## Cross-Channel ferry fire cause revealed

A PROBE into a fire on the Pride of Canterbury P&O cross-Channel ferry has revealed a 23-year-old pipework joint failed contributing to the blaze breaking out.

The investigation, carried out by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch, followed the fire which broke out onboard as the boat approached the Port of Calais, from Dover, in September 2014.

It discovered oil was able to spray onto an exhaust uptake, sparking the fire, as a result of the ruptured joint.

The main engine room was evacuated and the general emergency alarm was sounded. As passengers gathered at emergency stations, the fire was extinguished. No one was hurt, the boat was able to berth and passengers and cargo were able to disembark normally.

As a result of the investigation, the ferry company has completed a programme of modifications to the Pride of Canterbury and its three sister ships as they attend refit.

## Winning Flavours at the Tiffin Cup 2015

RAMSGATE restaurant Flavours by Kumar has won the prestigious Tiffin Cup - a competition staged in the House of Commons to find the best south Asian restaurant in the country.

The contenders for the crown are nominated by MPs who put forward what they believe to be the best in their constituency. South Thanet Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay said it was a "fantastic achievement" that his choice emerged triumphant.

The restaurant had already won the regional contest before cooking for a judging panel which included Strictly Come Dancing star and chef Ainsley Harriot, and EastEnders actress Nina Wadia.

Chef Anil Kumar said: "It is a huge honour to be named as winner of the Tiffin Cup 2015.

"Food for me has always been my passion and an adventure and there is no bigger way for this to be recognised than to be named as the winner of a national competition in the Houses of Parliament."

Mr Mackinlay added: "I am a regular diner at the restaurant and the food is always outstanding."



# Sowing the seeds of tourism success as county wins award

By Chris Britcher

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KENT has scooped another major tourism award after it was named 'garden tourism destination of the year' at the International Garden Tourism Awards.

Organised by the International Garden Tourism Network (IGTN), the announcement was made at the network's annual conference in Suncheon City, South Korea.

The awards are presented to organisations and individuals who have distinguished themselves in the development and promotion of the garden experience as a tourism attraction.

Chief executive of Visit Kent, the county's tourism champions, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said: "We are thrilled. Next year is Visit England's Year of the English Garden, so the timing of this award couldn't be better. Kent is truly the Garden of England, and we are extremely proud of the diverse offer Kent has for garden tourists."

"Not only do we have some of the most famous and beautiful gardens in the world – such as Sissinghurst and Hever Castle – but we also have 'gardens' producing wine, cider, beer, and fruit that are open to visitors wanting a tour with a twist, as well as alternative coastal 'gardens' such as our desert at



**TRIUMPH:** Hever Castle is one of the garden tourist hotspots

Dungeness.

"Add to this National Trust and English Heritage properties with palatial yet personal grounds, unconventional landscapes such as Riverhill Himalayan Gardens and Lullingstone World Garden, horticultural literary links to Jane Austen and Charles Dickens, and tranquil city-centre escapes, and Kent really does have something to offer every garden lover."

The IGTN is led by The Canadian Garden Council and Going Gardens, a UK based gar-

den tourism consultancy, with the support of a global network of garden leaders, and aims to increase visits and business for gardens, horticulture exhibitions and flower festivals across the world.

The IGTN highlighted that tourism is the world's fourth largest industry, with around 300 million garden tourists worldwide.

Other winners included sites in Australia, China, the Netherlands, Singapore and South Korea.

## Football coach guilty of abusing young boys

A 70-year-old former football coach from Tunbridge Wells has been found guilty of raping a young boy and molesting four others over a period spanning four decades.

Neil McKenna of Barnett's Close was convicted of 17 of the 24 charges by a jury at Maidstone Crown Court. The offences were committed in Headcorn, Cranbrook and Tunbridge Wells.

He'll be sentenced later this month.

## Arrests after wildlife crime crackdown

A NUMBER of arrests have been made and vehicles seized after Kent Police's rural task force took part in Wildlife Awareness Week.

Among the arrests was a 50 year old man from Greenhithe on suspicion of poaching, theft and criminal damage on October 16. It followed reports of poaching in Westwell, near Ashford.

## Smuggler gets jailed

DRUGS smuggler David Birks was sentenced to spend 20-years inside, but first police have to find him.

The 42-year-old was convicted of masterminding the importation of £1.8 million of heroin through Dover, but fled before he was sentenced.

Police are now hunting him, saying they won't let him escape justice.

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# Maidstone park and ride to close as costs continue to soar

A POPULAR park and ride bus service in Maidstone is to be closed down in February, it has been confirmed.

Council chiefs say they have been forced to give up the Sittingbourne Road side because of escalating costs of leasing the car park close to junction seven of the M20.

David Burton, chairman of the strategic planning, sustainability and transport committee on Maidstone Borough Council, explained: "We are disappointed that, despite extensive negotiation, the increased cost to renew the lease meant we couldn't afford to maintain the service there."

"While park and ride is a useful tool to tackle congestion, user numbers continue to fall, and the council currently subsidises the



service by more than £550,000 per year. To increase this to cover higher costs at one site would not offer taxpayers good value for money, and would require service cuts elsewhere. The council says it is talking to bus

companies to encourage them to introduce new services to meet existing and future demand in the area.

Maidstone council has no plans to close the Willington Street and London Road sites.

# Maintenance work on A2 to spark closures this week

MOTORISTS are been warned of closures to chunks of the A2 this week between Canterbury and Dover to allow for maintenance work.

Work begins tomorrow, Monday, with closures from 8pm to 6am until the middle of December.

It will allow Highways England - which maintains major roads across the country - to reinstate road markings and bridge joints on the road.

Highways England asset manager Kevin Bown said: "We understand that there are a lot of closures taking place however it is essential that this work takes place for safety reasons."

"We have decided to undertake the work overnight when traffic levels are at their lowest and in sections to keep

disruption for drivers to a minimum by keeping as much of the carriageway open as possible at any one time. We have also combined other necessary work into these closures wherever possible."

The road will be shut in sections between Harbledown, near Canterbury and the Eastern Docks roundabout in Dover.

The first overnight closure will take place between November 2 and November 3, and will see the London bound stretch between Patricbourne to Harbledown closed. The coastbound stretch will be shut to drivers between November 4 and November 6. The next chunk of road to be shut will be between Patricbourne and Barham.

## Colourful city parade

THE annual St Nicholas Community Parade will take place in Canterbury on Saturday December 5.

The lively and colourful community procession of children and musicians will depart from the city's Westgate Hall at noon before parading through Canterbury.

## Uni's dockyard theatre

THE University of Kent has launched its new Royal Dockyard Church Lecture Theatre and Sail and Colour Loft facilities at Chatham's Historic Dockyard.

It comprises a state-of-the-art lecture theatre and performance space for use by students, staff and the wider community.

## China for forest school

A FOREST school in Thanet is to send a team to China to help promote the concept after attracting the attention of the communist country.

Manor House Forest School in Margate takes children outside for lessons. A team will fly to China on November 25.

## Street's lottery success

FIVE lucky neighbours in a street in Chatham have shared a £5,000 prize from the People's Postcode Lottery.

The ME5 8ER address was drawn this week meaning neighbours who played the lottery game in Scotby Avenue shared the prize, handing them a £1,000 cheque each.

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## Top Three Stories



### 1. IPCC report revealed

PCC's car crash investigation is now over

### 2. Fury over Manston CPO

Council rejects RiverOak as its partner

### 3. Criminal gets 20 years

But police need help catching him

## The Essential Guide:



### Bonfire night guide 2015

Where to go across the county for the best firework displays, and the finest bonfires.



**FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY:** Cautious canines from Battersea Brands Hatch are looking for new homes ahead of Halloween. Check out our online gallery of some of the more nervous dogs to see if you'd like to give them a forever home.

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## Top Three Blogs



### 1. Is booze just an excuse?

Alcohol is no reason for spikes in crime

### 2. I want a special lorry lane

It would help ease my blood pressure

### 3. Marriage at first sight?

No thanks - love takes time to bloom

## Results of the KoS Online Poll

### Should trick or treating be banned?

- 1 Yes, it's annoying - 64%
- 2 No, children love it - 15%
- 3 Maybe - 2%
- 4 No, but there shouldn't be tricks - 20%

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# Pressure grows on Ann Barnes to confirm if she'll stand again

Following the publication of a report into a car crash which said the police and crime commissioner may not have had the correct insurance, a fresh chorus of voices is demanding to know her plans

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

**P**OLICE and crime commissioner Ann Barnes has faced fresh calls to make it clear if she intends to stand for re-election next May.

It follows the publication of a long-awaited report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) this week about Mrs Barnes' involvement in a car crash which took place in Dartford last September.

The crash – which was not Mrs Barnes' fault – sparked a probe over whether she held the correct insurance to drive the Mercedes involved.

The report said she may not have had business insurance on the car. She admitted in an interview with IPCC investigators she was on business at the time.

However, because the crash was not her fault, her insurance company settled the claim.

As revealed earlier this year, the Crown Prosecution Service stated pursuing the case would not be in the public interest, and so no further steps were taken.

But it is the latest blot on the copy-book of a PCC who has excelled at generating negative headlines during her reign to the extent that it has obscured the positives and risked bringing ridicule on Kent Police. They include a misjudged Channel 4 documentary and the hiring, and then firing, of a youth commissioner who it emerged had posted inappropriate comments on social media network Twitter.

The Kent and Medway Crime Panel, which holds the PCC to account for her actions, was less than impressed with the developments and the way the case was handled.

In the wake of the report being published, the panel – built up of councillors from the around the county – branded it a 'disappointing' report, which may have defeated 'transparent and open justice'.

One of the members of the panel is Andrew Bowles – leader of the Conservative-lead Swale Borough Council.

He told KoS his personal view was the PCC – whose role it is to hold the county's chief constable to account and set budgeting priorities – should go.

Cllr Bowles said: "The matter of whether she resigns or not is down to her, but she needs to sit down and take a good long look in the mirror and ask herself whether she's doing the office of the PCC and Kent Police any good by staying. I'm a bit conflicted, because obviously if she were to remain in office and stand again at May's elections, there could be a much higher turnout as a result of people wanting to get rid of her."



**CHOICE:** Ann Barnes, top, faces criticism from Andrew Bowles, left, and Damian Green, right

But with just over seven months of her term in office remaining, others say the costs involved of her quitting and thus forcing a by-election would be the final straw.

Others have rounded on the PCC, who stood as an independent candidate, saying that while it wouldn't make sense for her to leave her post so close to an election, she should make clear her intentions on whether she will stand again next year.

When asked directly by Kent on Sunday if she would stand for re-election a few weeks ago she said simply 'no comment'.

Ashford Tory MP Damian Green is a former policing minister. He told KoS: "She shouldn't stand down this close to an election, but she needs to

let people know whether or not she will stand again.

"Mrs Barnes has done some good things, but they have been totally overshadowed by a succession of terrible personal decisions, not least the Channel 4 documentary which she should never have done.

"This most recent incident with the car crash and subsequent IPCC investigation means it's now time, not least for her own sake, to make it clear she'll move on."

Mike Eddy, a Labour member of the Kent and Medway Crime Panel, and Dover councillor, said there was a good financial reason for the PCC to remain in post until May.

Cllr Eddy told KoS: "She shouldn't go now as it would cost around £1

million in order to have a fresh election. That's around £1 for every person to run the election, and when we're just seven months away from a new election it's cash which would be far better spent on actual frontline policing.

"I do think that over the past few years, she has had quite a rough ride. When she was elected, she took away part of the Tory field which is Kent. Despite that, there have been real questions of judgement."

That's a view shared by Medway Labour councillor Tristan Osborne.

He said: "In my view that past four years has been a car crash after car crash. Kent needs a PCC who will focus on PCs and not PR. Ann Barnes has shown she is incapable of doing

that and it is for that reason that she must consider her position very closely."

It isn't just Mrs Barnes under the microscope though – the IPCC was criticised for taking so long to publish the report.

Cllr Eddy said that he believed it would have been 'infinitely better if the report had come out earlier'.

Damian Green added: "I do feel that this has taken a very long time for something which is so clearly of such public interest, for the IPCC to report on."

Cllr Eddy and Cllr Bowles both say that Mrs Barnes' time in office has raised the question of whether the PCC role should be kept.

Cllr Eddy told KoS: "From my point of view, as a Labour councillor, we have always said that we do not believe the position of PCC is one which provides good value for money to the taxpayer. We are convinced there are better alternative models which can be used to hold the police to account and manage budgets at less cost."

Cllr Bowles added: "What this whole farce has thrown up yet again is that we need a full public debate on whether we need this role anymore. As a panel member, who is supposed to be able to hold the PCC to account, if it is a role which is kept, I believe we need greater powers. I get frustrated, as currently we lack the legislation to actually do that with the PCC in Kent.

"The whole situation won't have done Kent Police's reputation any good and this situation certainly flags up the need for some real demonstrable improvement in the future."

Cllr Osborne also said that the affair may have damaged frontline policing.

He said: "The thin blue line can't operate unless it has the confidence of its PCC. With Ann Barnes preoccupied with PR she is unable to lead the fight against the Tory cuts. This is bound to have a detrimental affect of police morale and as a former special constable myself I know how important morale can be."

Despite many calling for transparency, Mrs Barnes seemed glad that the situation had 'finally been resolved'.

She said in a statement: "This issue was dealt with last February when the Crown Prosecution Service, having reviewed the evidence supplied by the IPCC, took the independent decision not to charge me.

"I have fully cooperated with the IPCC's lengthy investigation, and I am pleased that the matter has finally been resolved."

**• What do you think? Has the PCC role worked? Should Ann Barnes go? Share your views and join the debate. Email: [editorial@kosmedie.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedie.co.uk) or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP.**





**IMPACT:** The long wet winters have caused considerable problems across the county over recent years - however, steps taken may mean the situation has been eased

# Defences ready for winter rains?

**Jamie Weir** on how the Environment Agency is hoping its wardens scheme will help when floods come

**C**HRISTMAS 2013 will live on in the memory for hundreds of people - not for festive family fun, but for the flood waters which relentlessly rose and flooded their homes.

The carnage caused for people across the county - most notably those between Maidstone and Tonbridge - was damaging both financially and mentally.

As a consequence, the arrival of winter and prolonged wet weather now sees anxiety levels rise.

But much has changed since those floods, according to the Environment Agency - the government body with responsibility for preventing and managing flooding across the country.

From the Nailbourne which burst its banks causing residents of Bridge near Canterbury to abandon their homes, to the River Medway and its tributaries which caused such chaos at Yalding, the EA says that projects are in place to ensure flooding won't happen on the same scale a second time.

While much is made of grand capital projects with large physical defences, often, says the EA, people are the best frontline protection possible. That's why the agency is training up flood wardens across the county to help tackle extreme weather which leads to rivers swelling. More than 100 of these wardens have been trained up ahead of this winter.

One village which has benefitted from this scheme is Hildenborough, near Tonbridge. It was the scene of severe flooding when the Medway burst its banks during the sustained wet weather over the winter of 2013. During that flood, around 150 houses in the village were left underwater, with the costs of damage spiralling upwards. Now, though, 13 freshly trained flood wardens are on call.

The EA's flood resilience team leader, Tim Norton, said: "The flood wardens are committed to looking after their community.

"How communities prepare and work together before, during, and after flooding makes a real difference. Flood wardens are vital to helping communities survive the effects of flooding."

The wardens - all volunteers - are trained by the EA to act as a link between communities and the organisation. Their purpose is to pass on real time information to people whose properties are at risk of flooding, helping to prepare them and ensure damage is minimal.

It hopes to tackle the often heard problem of a lack of communication of just what to do in the event of a flood. With 55,750 signed up to receive flood warnings across the county, it is hoped that between the two methods, those affected will know what they should be doing and when to expect help.

It isn't just this type of 'soft' measure which is being put in place though. As the water starts rising, sometimes only barriers will do and the EA say that, this year, an extra 6,000 properties have been protected as a result of 'capital schemes' - investments in physical defences.

One project which is currently progressing at a rapid pace is at Faversham Creek. The project will see a massive mound of earth - called a bund - built up to stop flooding when the creek rises. When finished, it will be able to protect 21 houses, and the all important local pub.

Mike Cosgrove is Swale Borough Council's regeneration chief, and the man tasked with spearheading the project at the council.

He told KoS: "The town has always



**YALDING:** MP Helen Grant sails in after flooding swamped Yalding in 2013

suffered, every so-often, from flooding. The last flood ended up coming over each side of the creek by some way; Shepherd Neame's bottling plant was under water, and at its height a fish was found in there."

The area has flooded badly five times in the past 60 years. Although the risk is small, when the flood waters do arrive, they leave behind them a trail of devastation, so it was something the council, and homeowners in the area, wanted sorted.

Cllr Cosgrove continued: "The proposal for the new earth bund has been worked up over the past 18 months since the last flood in 2013. The bund will basically be built around the houses, providing them with protection from every side. It'll also be very user friendly, with flood resistant gates placed at intervals so that people can access the area with ease."

According to the councillor, it has been a masterclass in partnership working, with Faversham Town Council, Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, the EA and res-

idents in the area all playing a part.

He said: "The plans proceeded at a good pace as a result of everyone working closely to ensure the scheme is as fluid as it can be."

Work to build the new bund isn't likely to take place until next spring. However, Cllr Cosgrove said plans are in place should levels rise this winter.

He told KoS: "The EA has agreed that it will erect so-called demountable defences, which can be put in place quickly as an emergency measure if floods look likely."

The EA, it seems, is doing a good job to ensure that maintenance work is carried out to keep rivers flowing. Perhaps little wonder after all the negative headlines its response generated after the Christmas storms of 2013.

Canterbury's Conservative MP, Julian Brazier, is well aware of just how critical this work can be.

He told KoS: "When we had the period of bad flooding last year, it was slightly mitigated just because the EA had been out doing clearing of the river banks just weeks beforehand. It

avoided the worst scenario, with under 20 houses flooded out because of that key maintenance work, and it could have been far, far worse as the river banks were very high."

The MP says that this year he's 'hearing good things' but that there are two key issues which could prove stumbling blocks for more work to be done on flood defences in the future.

Mr Brazier said: "The first key issue over the longer term is that the EA are having to work under very restrictive conditions due to EU environmental legislation. It ties their hands, so that they aren't able to do as much to keep the water flowing as is needed in the longer term."

"The second big issue is that obviously we're in a period of pressured public finances, which is clearly very necessary. This means that bigger capital projects are less easily pushed forward with."

It was EU restrictions on dredging rivers which bore much of the criticism during the last storms.

The EA says it spends somewhere between £6m-7m each year maintaining river channels, clearing a total of 1,000km of main river of aquatic vegetation to help avoid flooding.

Maidstone and the Weald MP Helen Grant knows only too well the damage flooding can cause when it strikes. The village of Yalding in her constituency was swamped, with many people's property simply washed away. It led to scenes of anger when prime minister David Cameron was heckled by locals as he made a visit to the village to pledge it would be a high priority.

But Mrs Grant says she's remained vigilant to ensure those scenes which played out on the TV while many were eating their Christmas lunches, won't be repeated again.



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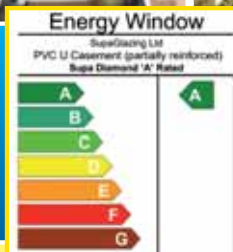
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## Coalition bid to finally solve the saga of Manston

After the Ukip cabinet rejected plans to push ahead with a plan to buy back Manston Airport, the Tories on Thanet council are spearheading a 'goodwill coalition' which it vows will finally deliver on Ukip's pre-election promises

**By Jamie Weir**

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**T**HANET District Council was once again the backdrop to scenes of fury on Thursday night, after its cabinet voted to reject progressing a compulsory purchase order for the site of Manston Airport with American investment firm RiverOak.

Hundreds of protestors had gathered before the meeting to make their feelings known to the councillors set to vote at the extraordinary meeting of ruling party Ukip's cabinet. But, despite making the resurrection of the airport a key election pledge, it voted against working with RiverOak to force the current owners of the site to sell.

Ukip's Chris Wells, leader of local authority, opened the meeting saying: "This is an uncomfortable decision but we have to find a way to move forward."

The way the six-strong cabinet voted - five against the CPO with just Derek Crow-Brown, member for corporate governance services voting for - sparked angry scenes in the public gallery of the council chamber.

Now, the Conservative group on the council has proposed forming a pro-airport coalition in order to finally reclaim the airport site.

The airport - which closed in May last year with the loss of around 150 jobs - has proved something of a problem child for Cllr Wells.

When Ukip swept to power in May's local elections, reopening the airport was a key priority and an election pledge which swayed many in the area to support them.

But months after the event, the Ukip leader has been coming under significant pressure from many - not least within his own party - to initiate a compulsory purchase order which would force current owners, Trevor Cartner and Chris Musgrave, to sell up.

When the airport first closed, the American



**BEFORE:** Manston before its closure has seen Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale, right, a long time supporter



investment group RiverOak made clear its desire to purchase it, with repeated offers to its former owner Ann Gloag.

However after the site was purchased by Messrs Cartner and Musgrave – also the men behind the former Pfizer's site regeneration at Sandwich's Discovery Park – the council identified RiverOak as a potential partner in the forced buyout of the land with an aim to bringing back the airport.

Since then it has proven a rocky road, leading to Thursday's fractious meeting. In the weeks leading up to the meeting, Cllr Wells faced calls to resign after a very public spat broke out with RiverOak and a handful of his own party members defected, leaving Thanet a hung council as Ukip lost its overall majority.

The report which the cabinet based its vote on called RiverOak's ability to finance the purchase of the airport into question. Cllr Wells said that there needed to be a "reasonable cer-

tainty of funding" which, he said, TDC was unable to have from RiverOak.

Cllr Wells said: "If I say the appetite for risk is not what it was in those years when money was easier, I'll probably be saying nothing but common sense. Local authorities cannot take a leap of faith, and as such we have to be cautious about the risks we take."

The decision at the meeting hung on expert legal argument.

Chairman of TDC, the Reverend Stuart Piper, a Ukip member, said: "I've read the report, and as an ordinary man on the street can say most of it makes sense to me."

"It says RiverOak has failed to meet the required criteria for the council. However, over the last week I have received communications from RiverOak and must say, as an ordinary man on the street, most of that makes sense to me. We seem to have two conflicting reports."

"We've needed expert legal advice, but the problem is that these expert legal minds cannot agree on the truth. The future of Manston Airport should not be down to a legal squabble about words. If it is a war of words, the people of Thanet will have been done a terrible disservice."

In the aftermath of the meeting, leader of the Conservative opposition, Bob Bayford told KoS he had a plan to give the electorate 'what they wanted'.

Cllr Bayford said: "I'd be happy to lead a coalition of goodwill. What I mean by that is I believe the overwhelming desire of this council is to go for a CPO and the current administration clearly isn't willing to do that. What I'm offering is for those who actually want to go for the airport to make themselves known to me, and

we can start the ball rolling properly."

That is something which both Thanet North and South Thanet MPs Sir Roger Gale and Craig Mackinlay say would support.

Mr Mackinlay, who beat off Ukip's Nigel Farage in May's general election, told KoS following the vote, Cllr Bayford could see a number of Ukip councillors approaching him.

He said: "If the leader of this council were to change through this coalition of goodwill, and there was a new cabinet, this decision could be overturned very, very quickly. The risk is non-existent, as even if RiverOak didn't see it through, this is a valuable asset which I don't think can possibly go wrong."

"I don't mind where they come from frankly; there could be current Ukipers that want to do it temporarily, or others who might like to come to us on a longer basis. There have already been defections from Ukip, and that's not only because of dissatisfaction with the lack of progress with Manston, but also because councillors are dissatisfied with the nature of Chris Wells' leadership here. He's certainly doing no good for this council but people who know Chris well have said that it's very unlikely he'll stand down, so it looks like he'll need to be pushed."

Indeed the Ukip figure cut an unrepentant figure during the meeting, which lasted for around two hours. Cllr Wells repeatedly stated that Ukip was not backing away from its election promise.

Cllr Wells said: "We did move it forward and we have made very real efforts in order to ensure the balance of

**TURN TO PAGE 16**

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

that election promise, against the balance of the risk we are asked to take with taxpayers money, was correct and proper."

Despite frequent jeering from campaigners in the room (including shouts of 'liar') the Ukip leader refused to give ground, repeatedly stating that though a CPO with RiverOak was not his preferred choice, there were four other potential investors for the site, and the option of a CPO was 'not off the table'. The identity of other investment opportunities were not revealed, however.

Cllr Wells said: "RiverOak's failure to respond to the many opportunities they had to demonstrate their suitability as an indemnity partner is genuinely disappointing.

"It does not however diminish our appetite to see the airport up and running. But it has to be done carefully, lawfully and in a manner that does not expose council tax payers to risk."

Many though, saw the decision taken as one likely to either kick the decision into the long grass, or remove it from the table altogether.

The previous Labour administration at the council had also rejected a CPO after seeking independent advice on the matter. They subsequently lost heavily in May's local election.

Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale said he felt betrayed after giving Cllr Wells his backing to bring the airport back into use.

Sir Roger told KoS: "Iris Johnston [former Labour leader of the council] did not let me down. She was true to her word, and I was always able to support her; possibly to the chagrin of some of my Conservative colleagues



**PROTESTS:** Campaigners before the meeting and Sir Roger Gale after

who felt I should be playing a party political role. I didn't want to do that and the moment Cllr Wells was elected I went up to him and said 'you go for the CPO and I'll back you'.

"For months I did back him, and it was only when it became apparent that Cllr Wells was going to fail to deliver on this election promise, that I pulled the plug."

That backing is something Cllr Wells is likely to lose from much of his electorate too.

Chairman of campaign group Save

Manston Airport, Beau Webber, said that questions needed to be asked about the process, telling KoS he believed delays in issuing papers were unconstitutional.

Dr Webber said: "It was an absolute travesty. It is totally against the constitution given the papers were not out five days in advance - many of the councillors only got them the morning of the meeting, so this decision is really in question.

"The cabinet had no knowledge of this themselves, they were just told

what they needed to vote for and what they should say.

"We'll be putting a case to councillors to call the decision in to the overview and scrutiny committee to review the decision."

Ruth Bailey is a campaigner with the group Supporters of Manston Airport. During May's general election she stood as a candidate on the single issue of reopening the airport.

She told KoS she felt the decision taken had been anticipated.

She said: "It's a heart and head

thing; I think everyone wants the airport, no-one wants the houses, but the council needs the assurances.

"It's more a relationship thing now. I think it's broken down so much at this point that RiverOak can't work with Cllr Wells now. A coalition is probably the only way forward."

That's not necessarily the case according to Tony Freudmann, the managing director of RiverOak. He said that despite losing the backing of the cabinet, the fight continued.

Mr Freudmann told KoS: "We feel our response rebuts most of the material in the report considered by the cabinet line by line. We've never been given the chance to make a full presentation, and give our full case, and that's really our frustration.

"With most members of the council we have good relations. Remember, we've only been negotiating with one man during this process. We would have been much more comfortable if we'd been negotiating with the whole cabinet and opposition members as we did when Iris Johnston was leader.

"We'll go away, consider the implications of this, but I want to make it very clear that we're not going to be giving up on this."

The decision delighted the owners of the land, Trevor Cartner and Chris Musgrave. The pair's spokesman for development scheme, Stone Hill Park, is Ray Mallon.

Mr Mallon said: "Stone Hill Park welcomes the decision.

"I hope this chapter, which has put the area's prosperity on hold for so long, is now at an end and that the council will work with us on developing a world class mixed use scheme."

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# A century after his final dismissal a look back at WG Grace's legacy

He remains perhaps the most celebrated of all cricketers and is credited with kick-starting the modern game. We look back at his remarkable career, his connections to the county and his lasting influence

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**A**MID a somewhat higgledy piggledy cemetery within a London borough that many still consider Kent, there is a grave which stands out from the rest.

Standing tall amid the crumbling greys of tomb stones dating back through the years is a tall white cross, perched almost like stumps at the end of a green strip.

It is all rather appropriate, because here, in Beckenham cemetery on the Elmers End Road, is the final resting place of perhaps one of the nation's most famous of all sportsmen - cricketer WG Grace. He had spent many years living in nearby Mottingham where he had practised as a doctor.

And last weekend marked the 100th anniversary of his death.

Born William Gilbert Grace - and known to his friends as Gilbert - in 1848 near Bristol, he went on to transcend the sport as he played first-class cricket for a record-equalling 44 seasons, batting and bowling his way into the history books, as he captained England as well as a range of county clubs.

While undoubtedly an all-rounder, it is his work at the crease for which he is most fondly remembered, heralded by many for essentially inventing modern batsmanship.

Usually opening the innings, he was particularly admired for his mastery of all strokes, and his level of expertise was said by contemporary reviewers to be unique. But his attitude and ego could at times rub people up the wrong way and his tales of refusing to walk after a dismissal are legendary.

But for a man who played his cricket in an era of poor pitches and limited preparation, Grace was a phenomenon. His image as the grandfather of the game - with his long beard and cricket cap - has only cemented his place in popular legend.



**REST:** His grave in Beckenham



**PLAQUE:** Site of his former home

Over the course of his career he scored 54,896 first-class runs, 126 centuries and took 2,876 wickets.

His fundamental opinion was that cricketers are "not born" but must be nurtured to develop their skills through coaching and practice and, in his own case, he had achieved his skill through constant practice as a boy at home under the tutelage of his uncle Alfred Pocock.

Richard Tomlinson, author of the cricketer's biography, *Amazing Grace: The Man who was WG*, feels there were - and still are - a lot of misconceptions about Grace.

He told KoS: "The traditional view of him as a simple-minded buffoon was false. I didn't believe anyone could bat as well as he did without possessing high intelligence and fantastic powers of concentration."

"What a lot of people don't recognise is that he changed a lot as he got older."

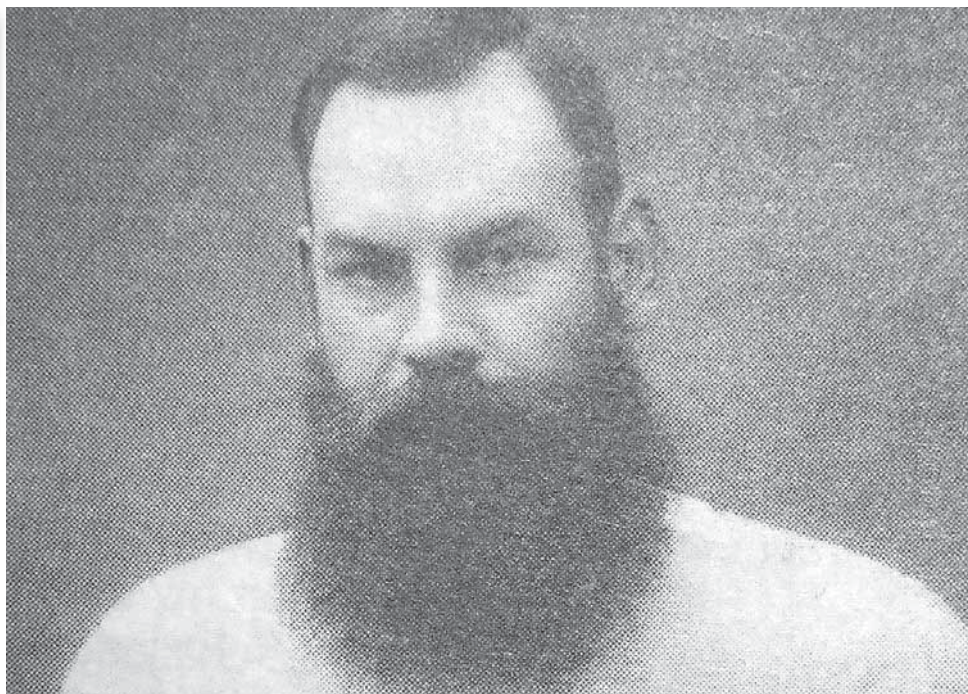
"In his 20s he was quite arrogant and was what I'd describe as a young man in a hurry."

"He made a lot of enemies on the cricket field, but later in his career he slowly became more likeable and by the end was deeply loved - very few sportspeople, now and then, attract that level of affection."

"He just destroyed himself by eating and drinking too much; there was a terrible sense of waste that he could have been so much better."

Having ended his international career in 1899, Grace then began the last phase of his overall first-class career when he formed the London County Cricket Club, based at Crystal Palace Park in Bromley which played first-class matches between 1900 and 1904. His philosophy was to give "invaluable first-class match experience to many cricketers who could not otherwise get it and who would be all the better for it when they come to play in county cricket."

Grace's presence initially attracted other leading players into the team,



**LEGEND:** The instantly recognisable face of cricket's most famous son - WG Grace

but the increased importance of the County Championship, combined with his inevitable decline in form and the lack of a competitive element to London's matches, led to reduced attendances and consequently the club lost money.

Nevertheless, Grace remained an attraction, and he was well aware of his celebrity status, as he was famously reported as saying after being given out LBW: "play on, they've come to see me bat, not you umpire."

Even at the age of 54 in 1902, he was still turning in fine performances, scoring 1,187 runs in first-class cricket, with two centuries. He was 59 when he finally quit the game.

Grace's story was not entirely dominated by cricket, though. He was famously adept in a number of other sports as well, winning the 440 yards hurdling title at the National Olympian Games at Crystal Palace in August 1866, and playing competitive football for Wanderers FC as well.

In addition to this, he qualified as a medical practitioner in 1879, where he was hugely respected until his death on October 23, 1915. He was 67.

He died in Mottingham, Bromley - where there now sits a blue plaque marking his residence - after suffering a heart attack, and is buried at Beckenham Crematorium and Cemetery.

Mr Tomlinson said: "Grace provided the template for how we play sport today in terms of looking for every possible angle he could exploit to win."

"He had that attitude and that's why people came to watch him."



**HOME:** Below, his former Mottingham home with its blue plaque, top left





# Major move of town theatre planned as council considers wholesale shift

**Chris Britcher** reports on the ambitious scheme proposed for Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall theatre

A MULTI-million plan to build a new 1,200-seat theatre in Tunbridge Wells - similar in size and scale to the Marlowe in Canterbury - took its first tentative steps this week.

The scheme has been proposed as a possible option to a wholesale shifting of the facilities currently found at the Town Hall building in the heart of the town.

This could see council offices and the police station follow the theatre down Mount Pleasant Road to a site opposite the town's railway station.

By moving out of the building - which is impressive but long since acknowledged as no longer fit for purpose - it would allow it to be redeveloped and thus fund the new theatre.

Those inside the council insist the plans are at their earliest stages, but on Thursday morning a cabinet meeting agreed to push ahead with examining the proposals.

The Assembly Hall Theatre has long had a question mark hanging over its future due to its ageing condition - despite a recent £1.5m refurbishment - and the desire to pull in the big ticket productions which has helped fuel the Marlowe's success



**PLANS:** How new look Assembly Hall Theatre could look on Great Hall site

since it was rebuilt.

Owned by the council, a move would allow it to develop a restaurant and other leisure facilities, as well as benefit from proximity to the picturesque town centre Calverley Park.

An initial report put together by consultants, commissioned by the council, shortlisted five key options which include variations on keeping the Town Hall on and relocating certain elements. But it is the shift to the



**MOVES:** Futuristic view from Calverley Park and how it looks today

Great Hall site - behind BBC Radio Kent's studios on Mount Pleasant Avenue, which is the preferred option.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council leader David Jukes stressed the need for complete transparency for the plans and that the authority was only at the start of a "long road".

It is thought any move is still some seven years away. The next major step will be in early December when full council will meet to chew over the idea.

The proposals will not be without their critics, however, who will remember a previous attempt by the council to pursue plans to sell the town hall and move out. This, how-

ever, seems to offer a more structured and thought out approach with the theatre a major carrot on the end of the stick.

It also comes at a time when the council needs to be fighting fit as it braces itself for yet more cuts. Much of the existing Town Hall site is no longer utilised and facilities such as the courtrooms are no longer used. A recent report put the cost of modernising the site at well in excess of £10m.

Tunbridge Wells has long prided itself on its cultural offering, with the Trinity Theatre just yards from the existing site and plans for a cinema to return to the town centre (see facing)..



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# ...and positive response too for town's £70m retail scheme

THE response to a public exhibition into ambitious £70million plans to expand a town centre shopping complex has been met with "overwhelming" positivity, according to centre chiefs.

Royal Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells wants to expand its offering in a bid to boost the town as a retail hub in the region - and deliver the first multi-screen cinema in the heart of it since 2000.

The multiplex would sit on top of the existing shopping centre and be surrounded by restaurants and other leisure facilities.

It is hoped by luring in a host of major new retail brands too, some 275 jobs would be created.

As reported in last week's KoS, the plans went on show last weekend for the first time. Some 88 per cent of those responding to the plans were supportive.



**IMPROVED:** Artist's impression of plans looking east down Calverley Road

Centre manager Nicky Blanchard told KoS: "We believe a new cinema will act as a magnet to encourage people to come into the town centre and spend more time here, especially at night. It will not just benefit RVP but the whole town centre and the local night time economy in general.

"We are now looking forward to analysing people's comments and taking them on board as we continue to work on our emerging proposals.

"This would be a major investment in the town centre that will have wider benefits for the whole area. Creating the right space in the right location will retain existing retailers as well as attracting new ones which would be great for the shopping centre - and for the town.

"The nature of town centres is changing, people need a reason to visit and many see shopping as more of a leisure activity than a necessity. The proposals have been really well received by local people and we're confident they will be good for the shopping centre and good for the town centre as a whole."

Tunbridge Wells has, traditionally, been keen to support its town centre offering rather than pushing people out to the out-of-town complexes on the edge of town.

That has been undermined over the last 15 years since the ABC cinema opposite the Town Hall closed in 2000. The site subsequently stood empty until it was finally demolished earlier this year.



**FUTURE:** How it could look inside and, above, visitors to the exhibition



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# How climate change could see wave of evolution in Channel

Ahead of a global conference in Paris next month we look at possible impact

By Chris Murphy  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**T**HE English Channel is undergoing a silent evolution, according to scientists, as sea water temperatures change and the fragile ecosystem within alters.

And, according to an expert, the stretch of water that laps our coast may buck the trend and rather than see the water temperature increase, it could drop instead.

He admits it is unlikely, but were it to happen, it could mean some familiar species of fish - such as cod - may become more scarce. What's more it could mean we eventually see a rise in the likes of certain times of seals and crabs.

Dr Phil Buckley is the senior lecturer in ecology and member of the ecology research group at Canterbury Christ Church University.

He explained: "A 2009 report by the Met Office showed surface temperatures in UK waters had increased by 0.7C in the past three decades.

"This may not sound like much, but just think about how much more time it takes to heat up a full kettle compared to half a kettle, then scale it up to the billions of litres of surface seawater we have and you get some idea of how much extra heat energy has gone into our coastal waters in the last 30 years.

"There are also signs that sea temperature increase is accelerating.

"In the long term, if sea temperature continues to rise, we could see the further loss of cold water species, such as cod, which will become increasingly rare in UK waters.

"Analysis carried out in 2014 showed that cod populations around the British Isles shifted northward over the course of the last century. This northward movement of cod populations was linked strongly to increases in sea temperature. At the same time, certain species of both invertebrates and fish from areas such as the Mediterranean could start to colonise the Channel."

But while the whole concept of climate change and the impact of human endeavours on those tempera-



**CHANGE:** Channel, above, and a glimpse of the future, right?

ture changes continue to be at the centre of an increasingly heated debate, so too in just what direction our waters may flow.

While shoals of exotic tropical fish appears to be a long way off yet, the English Channel may go in the opposite direction.

Dr Buckley said: "There are some special circumstances that apply to the UK, which might buck this trend.

"Higher global temperatures increase the melting of the northern ice cap, and all that freshwater could disrupt the Gulf Stream, the warm water current that contributes to our mild climate. This current has in fact

slowed in recent years, and further slowing might lead to us getting colder waters.

"One, admittedly unlikely scenario, is that a stalled Gulf Stream leads to sea temperatures routinely below 10C, in which case we could get exotic cold water specialists such as harp seals, or even the enormous red king crab in our waters.

"The red king crab which is native to the Pacific, is currently making its way down the Norwegian coast towards us, which is possibly good news if you like crab meat, but not such a great thing for native invertebrates and sea bottom communities

that lie in this predator's path."

Three years ago, a little further along the coast in Hampshire, a number of fish you would normally expect to see in warmer climates were spotted - among them bluefin tuna, triggerfish and thresher sharks.

In addition, it was expecting to see warm water fish from the Mediterranean such as anchovy, red mullet, sea bass and John Dory shoal northwards to the south coast, following the sea temperature rise.

Quite what happens is likely only to be known in several decades' time, but for now it seems the debate remains focused more on whether



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mankind is to blame, rather than adjusting to the reality of a new climate.

Ironically, across the Channel in France, a major row has been brewing this month over a book penned by popular weatherman Philippe Verdier. He has apparently been put on enforced holiday for two weeks after publishing claims dismissing climate change scientists and praising some of the benefits of rising temperatures.

He claimed we were being held "hostage to a planetary scandal over climate change" and that claims we must immediately change our behaviour of face meltdown is incorrect.

At the end of this month a major

climate change conference gets under way in Paris.

The Paris 2015 UN Climate Change Conference runs until December 11 and will be a forum where it is hoped, by organisers, governments will reach a new and universal climate change agreement.

Some 190 governments are expect-

ed to attend with top of the agenda a new global agreement on the climate, including cuts to greenhouse gas emissions. These are set to replace current commitments which are set to run out in 2020.

A revised draft of the agreement includes a commitment from governments to keep warming to no more

**COMING::** Is red king crab, above, coming our way to replace cod, left?

than 2C - and ideally 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

It is thought by many scientists that any increase in excess of the 2C could lead to irreversible changes to the climate - including rising sea levels, floods, droughts and other ex-

treme weather scenarios.

**What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Email us at [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP.**



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# Your guide to

Find out where to put a whizz-bang into your  
some of the biggest firework displays taking

**By Molly Kersey**

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

**W**ith bonfire night on the horizon, many

people are planning a night out to see some of the firework displays that will be taking place throughout the county.

At the start of November, the bright colours of many exploding fireworks will be lighting up the night sky.

There is something to suit everyone, from the big events at locations such as Leeds Castle to the family-friendly activities offered at Merton Farm.

Here is our list of the displays which will be taking place in your local areas.

■ **Where:** Leeds Castle, Maidstone

**When:** November 8  
**Time:** 5.30pm

**What:** The huge firework display at the castle will be timed to the music from a number of iconic movies this year.

As well as this, silver-screen themed images are due to be projected on to the side of the castle as part of the impressive display.

Hot food, drinks and entertainment will be available to visitors prior to the start of the display.

**Tickets:** Admission will cost £19 for adults, and £12.50 for children between four and 15.

Children under four will be allowed in for free. Group tickets are also available.

**Booking:** Visit [www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com) to book or call the box office on 01622 880008.

■ **Where:** Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

**When:** October 30 to 31  
**Time:** 7pm and 8pm

**What:** The hugely popular fireworks display is 'back with a bang', and the annual event will once again be lighting up the skies.

The park will offer entertainment for people to enjoy ahead of the displays, such as a number of stalls, funfair rides and food and drink.

**Tickets:** Tickets are £12 on the gate, or early bird tickets are available online for £9.

**Booking:** Visit [www.thehopfarm.co.uk](http://www.thehopfarm.co.uk) for tickets

■ **Where:** Merton Farm, Canterbury

**When:** November 7

**Time:** 6.30pm

**What:** The family-friendly fireworks display will be raising money for a number of good causes, including Canterbury Wheelchair Rugby.

Gates will be opening from 4.30pm and a bonfire will be lit at 5pm.

Food, refreshments and activities will be available on the night.

**Tickets:** Admission is £10 on the gate for adults and £5 for children

**Booking:** To book visit [www.fireworksonthefarm.co.uk](http://www.fireworksonthefarm.co.uk)

■ **Where:** Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells

**When:** November 7

**Time:** 7pm

**What:** Visitors will have the chance to sample some local food and drink, take in the scenery of the park or to go on a fairground ride after the gates open at 5.30pm. The fireworks will be starting at 7pm, with the display expected to last for 25 minutes.

**Tickets:** Tickets purchased on the day at the gate will be £8 for adults and £5 for children. Tickets can also be purchased online at £6 for adults and £4 for children.

**Booking:** Visit [www.rtwrt.org](http://www.rtwrt.org) for more information

■ **Where:** Riverside Leisure Area, also known as The Prom, Gravesend

**When:** November 6

**Time:** 8pm

**What:** Gravesend Borough Council's free firework display is back for another year. Events will be taking place from 5pm onwards, with a funfair, disco, and music from Foo Fighters tribute band Four Fighters.

**Booking:** Admission is free. Visit [www.gravesend.gov.uk/services/leisure-and-culture/events/gravesend-fireworks-display](http://www.gravesend.gov.uk/services/leisure-and-culture/events/gravesend-fireworks-display) for more details

■ **Where:** Tyler Hill, near Canterbury

**When:** November 7

**Time:** 8pm

The Bonfire Night celebrations will be held at the Tyler Hill Recreation Ground on Summer Lane.

The bonfire will be lit at around 7.15 pm, with fireworks shortly afterwards.

Visitors are advised to arrive early to beat the crowds.

**Tickets:** £7 or £3 for those under 14.

**Booking:** [www.tyler-hillbonfire.co.uk](http://www.tyler-hillbonfire.co.uk)

■ **Where:** Quex Park, Birchington

**When:** November 7

**Time:** 7.15pm

**What:** The eighth annual bonfire and fireworks night at Quex park with have a 'night at the movies' theme.

There will be two pyrotechnic displays, with one choreographed to music.

As well as this, there will be stilt walkers, jugglers and magicians to entertain visitors.

**Tickets:** £8.50 for adults and £6.50 for children. Family tickets are available for two adults and two children at £34

**Booking:** Visit [www.quexpark.co.uk](http://www.quexpark.co.uk) for details

■ **Where:** Rodermerham Primary School, Rodmersham, Sittingbourne

**When:** November 4

**Time:** Gates 5.30pm - display at 6.45pm

**What:** Billed as the Rodmersham fireworks spectacular, it follows on from last year's success and is promising to be bigger and better. Presented by Aurora Fireworks, there will be a BBQ, bar with mulled wine, glow sticks and more.

**Tickets:** Family ticket for four people £15; adults £5, children/OAPs £4. Under 2s free.

**Booking:** From school office or the Fruiterers Arms in Rodmersham or on the gate

■ **Where:** The Belmont, Whitstable Town FC

**When:** November 5

**Time:** Gates 5pm - display starts 6.30pm

**What:** Annual fire-



# Bonfire Night

evening with our guide to a selection of place across the county over the next week

works extravaganza at the non-league football club, which includes a junior football match and a penalty shoot-out.

**Tickets:** Family tickets in advance £10 (£15 on the night); adults £5 (£7).

**Booking:** Visit [www.whitstabletownfc.co.uk](http://www.whitstabletownfc.co.uk)

■ **Where:** Ashford Rugby Club, Canterbury Road  
**When:** November 7  
**Time:** Gates 5pm, bonfire 7pm, fireworks 7.30pm

**What:** Popular annual display close to Ashford town centre. Includes food stalls, real ales, beer bus, amusements and very limited free parking.

**Tickets:** Family ticket £15 in advance (£20 on the night); adults £6 (£8).



## ALWAYS FOLLOW THE FIREWORK CODE

ACCORDING to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers.

Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks. They should also take care of the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used.

### The key things to follow are:

■ Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.

■ Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.

■ Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.

■ Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.

■ Keep naked flames, in-

cluding cigarettes, away from fireworks.

■ Never return to a firework once it has been lit.

■ Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.

■ Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.

■ Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.

■ Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

**SPECTACLE:** The annual display at Leeds Castle is traditionally one of the best attended in the county



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**EXPERTS:** Carving faces out of turnips at popular tourist spot. Pic: English Heritage

# Castle spirits kept at bay by turnip parade

The humble vegetable regained its place in the Halloween traditions at Dover Castle this week

**By Jamie Weir**

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

**T**ORTURED turnips took their place on the battlements of Dover Castle this week, after English Heritage urged people to turn to the humble root vegetable for Halloween carvings.

The turnip was the original carved vegetable, with people placing them near doors and windows to ward off evil spirits.

However, it fell out of favour as people moved to America in the 19th century, when they found that pumpkins - much larger vegetables - were far easier to carve.

As the popularity of Halloween celebrations grew in America, the pumpkin grew in popularity in Britain as well.

This year though, English Heritage asked members of the public to get behind their



heritage vegetable ahead of Saturday's Halloween celebrations, amid warnings the pumpkin harvest could be poor following a period of wet weather.

As a result of that, the turnip carvers paid a visit to Dover Castle - an English Heritage property - last weekend to provide inspiration for ghoulish creations using the traditional vegetable.

Michael Carter is a historian who works for English Heritage - a national charity which looks after many of the country's historic buildings including Dover Castle.

Dr Carter said: "From carved pumpkins to

trick or treating, many of the traditions associated with Halloween today come from early European folklore, rather than simply being American inventions.

"This year English Heritage is having fun with some of the original Halloween traditions including our array of carved turnips at Dover Castle and ghost tours at our castles across the country.

"I don't think turnips are going to replace pumpkins, they are more difficult to carve, but hopefully people will remember the turnip and all our other rich traditions this Halloween."





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# Picking up the pieces for victims of criminals

**Tom Pyman** met Ann Barnes as she handed over more than £280,000 to a host of victim support organisations at the new Compass House in Ashford

**P**OLICE and crime commissioner Ann Barnes said she was "delighted" to hand over more than £280,000 of funding to victim of crime support groups and that she will monitor carefully how the cash is spent.

The money came from her office's specialist victim services fund. It was set up after the responsibility for commissioning victims' services was devolved to PCCs from the Ministry of Justice last year.

Organisations were invited to bid for a share of the £284,735 fund, with the eight successful bids receiving their cash at a special presentation at the Compass House service in Ashford.

It offers care and advice to victims and witnesses of crime in the county.

Mrs Barnes, who has put the handling of victims high on her list of priorities during her sometimes rocky time in office (see page 11) said: "The national charity Victim Support is currently delivering an enhanced service for victims from Compass House but there are some people who need extra special support.

"These organisations make a very real difference to people in Kent who

have been through terrible times in their lives.

"So, on behalf of all the people of Kent, I am delighted to be able to entrust these eight projects with this public money to help them continue with their vital work.

"Last year £250,000 was allocated to specialist victim services, but this year my office was so overwhelmed with excellent bids that I was only too happy to increase the fund.

"Unfortunately we live in an age of austerity and my office had to turn down more bids than it could accept, from some very worthy groups.

"On behalf of the people of Kent, I will be keen to see evidence that this money is being well spent."

The successful applicants included an award-winning service working with hearing-impaired women suffering domestic abuse and a charity that supports hate crime victims with learning disabilities and autism.

Gill Orman and Jacqi Snare from Rising Sun, a domestic violence and abuse charity based in Canterbury, said: "This money will help us reach children aged between five and 15, help them engage in creative play and



**SUPPORT:** Picking up their share of the fund above, Ann Barnes and Chief Constable Alan Pugh, below

providing one-to-one sessions to help with trauma suffered as a result of domestic abuse.

"It will go to those children but also parents as well, we need to be able to reach them and help rebuild some lives."

Sandie Turner from Rubicon Cares, which provides specialist trauma counselling, spoke highly of the venue and its value to organisations such as hers. She explained: "I've been to Compass House a number of times now, and the new premises feel calm and welcoming for our clients and we have received very positive feedback."

Mrs Barnes also had high praise for the Compass House facility, located on Tufton Street, which opened in April this year.

She told the successful applicants, who were given a tour of the site, its facilities were open for use by the project leaders, and the people they support, "at any time".

She said: "It is called Compass House for a reason; while the admin is housed here, it points people to support and care in all directions throughout the county.

"I want the people of Kent to know it's here, and it's important for people to know that they're not alone."

Compass House provides the projects with a range of useful facilities, including computers, two support suites, a training room and video suites, where witnesses and victims can give evidence via video link,



without having to endure the trauma of actually going into court.

Partnerships and commissioning officer Lisa Breeze for the PCC's office said: "We've put a lot of thought into the design of everything at Compass

House. Hopefully people agree that our counselling rooms have a homely feel to them.

"We wanted to reflect it being a neutral environment without being clinical, so we tried to avoid white walls.

"We consulted regularly with the victims panel, which is made up of volunteers who have previously been victims of crime, and one of the things was how the building should look.

"There's only little hints of colour, hopefully it's neutral enough for men and women and children to share the same space."

**For further details on Compass House and information for victims of crime, see the Victim Support Kent website by logging on to [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk).**

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# From a terrifying kidnapping to Hi-de-Hi; star's remarkable life

Linda Regan-Murphy is a successful author and actress and has, for 20 years, been married to comedy actor Brian Murphy. **Sarah Sturt** from our sister title **Kent Life** met her at the family home in Bromley

**A**CTOR-writer Linda Regan-Murphy not only lives in the oldest house in Bromley, but so once did Enid Blyton, HG Wells and Shelley.

"People have said they feel presences in this house," the author and actress revealed. "I haven't, but I be-

lieve there are some very good vibes from past writers who lived here."

When she and her husband, the actor Brian Murphy best known for Man About the House and its spin-off George and Mildred, were looking for a house to buy together 20 years ago, they weren't planning to live in the area at all.

However, her father had just died and she wanted to be near her mother, so when they drove by and saw the 'For sale' sign the rest, as they say, is history.

Born in Brixton, where she now sets her crime novels, the family moved to Rochester when Mrs Regan-Murphy was two, settling in Bromley when she was five.

"I love this area because it's home, it's the memories. My parents lived opposite Sundridge Park and I used to sneak across the golf course with our dogs when it was closed. I was tiny but very naughty, my girlfriends all say they were scared of me at school because I didn't care what I did. We've all grown up together and are real soulmates, the Bromley convent 'boater brigade'."

Indeed, this diminutive, pretty blonde – an unlikely pensioner – still has a naughty twinkle about her, still adores dogs (and teddy bears, she has nearly 200, all with names) and it's no surprise to learn that comedy is in her DNA. "I come from a theatrical family. My dad was a comedy magi-

cian, he also had a comedy show band, did toastmastering and was a variety agent. Mum, who is Irish, was a nurse – god only knows what they had in common.

"I worked with my dad a lot, we did after-lunch talks and shows and both belonged to showbiz charity The Grand Order of Water Rats – I'm a Lady Ratling and Daddy was a Water Rat. He was my pal and I was devastated when he died."

Linda's first job was passing up the puppets to her father in his Punch & Judy booth at holiday camps when she was just three years old.

She thinks it was her total familiarity with that world that many years later helped get her a role in the hit BBC sitcom Hi-De-Hi!

"It certainly all felt very familiar to me. It was set in the 50s and 60s and that was mine and my dad's time, plus the writers had been Redcoats, so there was that authenticity to the writing. My role (as April, the lovestruck Yellowcoat) started very small but I was told if it worked they would write my character up – which they did."

As well as learning about puppetry and the art of balloon modelling, working with her father also gave Linda an early edge over her peers.

Leaving school at 16, she went straight into stand-up comedy and when she joined The Swan theatre at Worcester Repertory Company, was amazed when the other actors were quite nervous about playing in front of an audience.

"I was just so impressed that they stayed in their seats and listened. I was used to clubs where everyone rattled glasses and shouted while you were performing, and I'd had to deal with that at the age of 16."

While Linda still loves live comedy best and is aware that people tend to see her as a light performer, she has done her fair share of drama. During a year at the RSC ("when I had Shakespeare knocked into me") she had the privilege of being in Trevor Nunn's company, with David Suchet as her head of workshop. She went on to play Lady Macbeth at Wimbledon Open-Air Theatre, a part she'd always wanted, and did Extremities after

## ALL THIS AND MUCH MORE IN KENT LIFE

YOU can read the full length version of this interview, which includes many more photographs, in the November edition of our sister title, *Kent Life* magazine.

Out now, it is packed full of the very best from around the county, including a special look behind the walls of Allington Castle, and a special on how the county has inspired authors.

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**STAR:** Linda Regan-Murphy has written a string of successful books. Picture courtesy of: MANU PALOMEQUE/KENT LIFE

Helen Mirren. After the RSC she took the lead in Tom Stoppard's *Dirty Linen* in the West End for 18 months, while a highlight of her career was bringing life full circle when she did *Once A Catholic* in Bromley, "playing the naughty girl who got expelled."

Linda also portrayed Marilyn Monroe in a "really dark play about the end of her life" and not only found that unsettling from a personal point of view (strange people at the stage

door, being sent even stranger letters), but in later years one of her books is about a psychopath who preys on Marilyn Monroe lookalikes.

Her rich theatrical life and Brixton roots imbue her novels with a real sense of authenticity and her actor's eye for detail and characterisation has caused many reviewers to comment how well her books would translate into film or TV.

That hasn't happened yet, but it

can only be a matter of time, with titles such as *Passion Killers* and *Dead like Her* (the Marilyn book) to choose from, not to mention her latest, *Guts for Garters*.

Despite being on the dyslexic spectrum and not encouraged at school, Linda says she wrote from a young age. Ironically, her very first novel nearly didn't get published at all and in fact came from a very difficult point in her life. In 2005, Linda was

kidnapped in a car at knife-point and had to jump from the moving vehicle to escape.

"That changed my writing from that point, it became darker and darker and I wrote *Behind You*, which became a thriller. However, I was so embarrassed by it that I threw it away. Brian rescued it and sent it into *Crème de la Crime* worldwide search for new crime writers and I only won it. They took 12 people and

gave us all an editing contract for a year and then published six of us – and I was one of those six."

Soon after, Linda was diagnosed with cancer – which she believes was triggered by her terrifying kidnap ordeal – but, ever the trouper: "I decided I'd fight it and not go down with it."

With a combination of courage and rare, if enforced, time off she took the brave decision to take an MA in creative and critical journalism at Portsmouth University, Brian's home town so he could come with her and explore old haunts while she had her treatments. Ever practical.

"They took me because I was a published author, but I hadn't got one O-Level to my name. On the first day, we had to fill in these forms and I was told I hadn't finished mine because I hadn't filled in the bit about qualifications. But I hadn't got any. I had such a lovely young class, all less than half my age. It was their peer support that got me through, and we're all still in touch."

Even in hospital Linda was brave, encouraging those with her in the same "dark, frightening tunnel" and reviving her old balloon-making skills to create Mickey Mouse figures for the children's ward. And still she worked – though her heart sunk a bit when the first role she was offered after her cancer journey was *Holby City*, although fortunately as a barmaid not a patient.

There's a lot of steel and courage behind the blonde, sweet exterior, and also a rock-solid marriage to the actor Brian Murphy.

**Find out how they met and the secret of their marriage in this month's Kent Life. On sale now priced £3.25.**



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**FIGURE:** Locals in Briary Close, Westgate, stand in front of the threatened hedgerow at the end of their cul-de-sac. They fear its removal will pave the way for land to be developed into new homes

# How a hedgerow has become a symbol in battle against housing

Plans to pull down a hedgerow ahead of possible plans to build housing on land has sparked a major row in Thanet. **Jamie Weir** speaks to those involved and why hedges are so significant in our lives

**T**HE humble hedgerow is easy to overlook and under estimate.

Yet in their understated way, they become the unsung heroes of communities both in rural and urban areas; aesthetically pleasing, often with a history dating back hundreds of years, and a haven for nature.

So it is perhaps little wonder that the decision by a landowner to want to rip one up in Thanet to make way for a possible housing site has not gone down well with locals.

When the bulldozers arrived at Briary Close in Westgate recently, residents of the area parked their cars to block the road and made it impossible for the large vehicles to access the hedgerow to start removing it. It proved the opening shots in a battle which continues with residents wanting victory with a reprieve for the hedgerow.

The campaign to protect it started after Thanet District Council (TDC) identified a site which sits next to Briary Close as one which could see houses built on, in its draft options local plan - a long term strategy outlining potential development areas. There have been, however, no firm plans to build on it, Yet.

Briary Close is currently a quiet cul-de-sac just off the busy Canterbury Road which leads to nearby

Margate.

At the end of the street is a high, dense hedge dividing the homes from the fields beyond it. And it is this barrier which the locals have become so attached to - both as a symbol of what it represents and as a key rural boundary.

But despite no planning permission yet applied for and no firm plans in place, the landowner opted to get the hedgerow out of the way now, sparking the outcry.

Now, it seems, the locals see the hedgerow as symbolising the fight against any housing proposals - especially as its removal would clear the way for access to the site.

Denise Young is one of the people who lives in the close, and one of those fighting to save the hedge. She told KoS: "The hedge itself has real historical links which could possibly date all the way back to Saxon times."

"It has a tremendous amount of history attached to it. I don't think any development whatsoever should be given the go-ahead until its historic importance has been fully explored by an archaeological dig in the area."

"While we all know, and understand that housing needs to be built, this is far from being the right place for it. It's a disgraceful situation and one which no-one in this road feels they can put up with."

People living in Briary Close aren't

just battling to stop any development because of access issues though - the hedge is also an important place for wildlife according to the campaigners.

Mrs Young said: "This hedge really is a home for nature, and an important one at that. A variety of wildlife lives in the mature hedge with some birds, such as song thrushes and tree sparrows making it their home too. Both of those types of bird are on the RSPB's endangered list, so although developers may just see it as an obstacle to their plans, it's actually a really important piece of the nature puzzle."

Hedgerows are of great importance to many species according to the RSPB, supporting as much as 80 per cent of woodland birds, 50 per cent of mammals and 30 per cent of the country's butterfly species."

Labour's Iris Johnston was leader of Thanet District Council when the area was put on the local plan. She is now supporting those fighting its removal.

She said: "The options part of the local plan identified the site as being potentially able to accept some development. However at that stage it's more about the landowner putting the site forward than the council actually deciding whether or not it's a suitable place for development."

"It's probably an ancient hedgerow, and certainly has tremendous historical links.

"I've asked the council to put a retention order on the hedge, which should ensure that none is removed and no work is allowed to take place at the site. I believe that absolutely nothing should be allowed to happen at the site until we can be entirely sure that it isn't important historically or environmentally."

That, however, would appear doomed to failure.

The council says it isn't possible for them to stop the removal of the hedge if the landowner wants to get rid of it.

A council spokesperson said: "There are strict guidelines as to when a council is allowed to prevent the removal of a hedge from private property. The council is aware of this situation and has taken independent, external and specialist ecological and historical advice."

"Unfortunately, the advice we have received is that this particular hedge does not meet the stringent and very specific criteria for protection and therefore the council has no powers to act on this."

In what is becoming a fight familiar to many in the county - that of the relentless march towards more housing and the impact that has both on existing communities and the environment - it does remind us all of the value of hedges both historically and as a barrier to what lies beyond.

"Hedgerows have been an impor-

tant feature of British countryside since the mid-18th century and the Enclosures Act, although there have been hedgerows as early as the Bronze Age," explains a spokesman for bird charity the RSPB.

"They were first used as stock enclosures and boundary markers, but also provided berries, nuts, firewood and other resources to the farmer. Their importance as nesting sites and a source of food to wild birds is well documented."

"Since the Second World War there has been large-scale removal of hedgerows in a drive to increase food production, and in some parts of the country well over half of hedgerows have gone. Despite planting of new hedgerows, removal and neglect resulted in the loss of around 18,000 kilometres per year as recently as the early 1990s."

Despite repeated attempts to contact Darren Ellis, who would be behind any development, KoS was unable to get a response

**What do you think of house building plans across the county? Is it having an impact on your community? Share your concerns, and your views, and join the debate. Email us your comments at [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) or write directly to The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP.**

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500	1200	1240	£105.00	<b>£75.00</b>
500	1600	1638	£166.60	<b>£119.00</b>
500	1800	1882	£180.66	<b>£129.00</b>
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600	1800	2184	£191.80	<b>£137.00</b>

\* Electric element option available for all above rails for dual energy installations

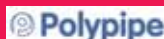
## Traditional Heated Towel Radiators

Timeless elegance and functionality

Height mm	Width mm	BTU	TKM Price
963	493	1808	<b>£159.00</b>
963	673	2412	<b>£199.00</b>



## Underfloor Heating



Polypipe manufactures the most comprehensive range of underfloor heating systems available for the UK market.

Suitable for:

- Solid Floor Systems
- Floating Floor Systems
- Suspended Floor Systems
- Existing Floors & Low Profile Systems

**LESS THAN  
HALF  
PRICE**

## Resort Rimless WC Suite

- No hidden Rim to Harbour germs
- No ledges or rim ensured water is fully projected round to the front of the bowl
- Fully back to wall or open back options
- Standard height or comfort height available
- Soft close seat included

From **£288.00**

30 other WC suites on display from £53.95



## BATHROOM FURNITURE SET

L-Shape Furniture Set  
White Gloss Finish  
Resin Basin Left or Right Hand  
Soft Close Doors  
Concealed cistern included  
Tap sold separately  
Size 1100X460mm

**SET  
£279.00  
PRICE**

Add a back to wall WC pan & seat from only £59.00 \*while stock last



## Bathroom Vanity Units

- High gloss white finish
- Ceramic one piece basins
- Factory assembled
- All doors feature soft close hinges
- Suit any bathroom or en-suite setting
- 6 sizes from stock
- Full range of mixer taps sold separately



Width mm	Depth mm	Doors	Drawers	TKM Price
450	440	1	0	<b>£84.95</b>
550	440	2	0	<b>£89.95</b>
650	450	2	0	<b>£119.95</b>
750	480	3	2	<b>£149.95</b>
850	480	3	2	<b>£169.95</b>
1050	485	2	3	<b>£199.95</b>

## Thermostatic Showers

TKM stock one of the largest ranges of showers around.

From famous brands like Mira, Aqualisa, Hudson Reed.

With prices from **£69.95**



## Cloakroom Vanity Units

- Compact minimalist design
- Ceramic basin
- White gloss or Light Oak finish
- Size 781H x 390W x 215D (mm)
- Full range of mixer taps available sold separately

**£79.95**



## SLIMLINE FURNITURE PACK

500mm Basin Unit | 500mm WC Unit

One Piece Resin Basin

Pan with Soft close toilet seat

Dual flush concealed cistern

Tap sold separately

**SET  
£289.00  
PRICE**



## BATH SHOWER SCREEN

Fully Reversible  
6mm toughened Safety Glass  
Chrome frame, clear glass  
Out of true wall adjustment  
size 1400H  
x 800w.mm

**NOW ONLY  
£49.95  
YOU SAVE  
£20.00**



## RELAY SHOWER

Thermostatic bar valve  
shower with slide rail  
shower kit

**NOW ONLY  
£39.00  
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£30.00**



## Contract Bathroom Suite

Comprising Bath - choose from 3 sizes  
1700 x 700mm, 1600 x 700mm  
or 1500 x 700mm  
In either Pressed Steel or Acrylic

WC Suite with toilet seat  
Basin and Pedestal 1 or 2 Tap Hole

**BEST  
£159.95  
SELLER**



## Shower Enclosure Package

Aqua Dart  
1200mm sliding door with 800mm side  
panel

1200 x 800mm low profile stone resin  
shower tray

**PACK  
£349.00  
PRICE**



List Price £710.00  
Less than half price

## Kitchen Sinks

Stainless Steel sink and tap  
packs From **£89.99**  
Ceramic kitchen sinks  
From **£119.00**



## Bathroom Furniture Package

High gloss white Vanity Unit  
550mm wide **£170.00**  
WC Unit 500mm wide **£131.00**  
D-Shape Back to Wall Pan  
including Soft Close Seat **£118.80**  
Concealed Dual Flush Cistern **£40.75**  
Barra Basin Mixer Tap with Click Waste **£53.00**

**Total £513.55**

**TKM Pack Price - £259.00**



## Shower Enclosures

**CLEARANCE  
RANGE**

Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
800x800	£435.00	<b>£149.00</b>
900x900	£435.00	<b>£149.00</b>
1000x800	£600.00	<b>£199.00</b>
1200x800	£630.00	<b>£199.00</b>

Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
760	£405.00	<b>£99.00</b>
800	£427.50	<b>£109.00</b>
900	£427.50	<b>£109.00</b>

Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
700	£225.00	<b>£99.00</b>
800	£255.00	<b>£99.00</b>

KEY FEATURES: 6mm Easy Clean Toughened Safety Glass, 1850mm Height (excluding tray height), Quick Releaser Bottom Rollers for ease of cleaning, Out of true Wall Adjustment up to 40mm, Chrome framework, Clear Glass



## ROMA TAPS

Basin Mixer Tap

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NOW £39.00  
YOU SAVE £77.40**



Bath Mixer

**LIST PRICE £135.60  
NOW £69.00  
YOU SAVE £66.60**



Bath Shower Mixer

**LIST PRICE £166.20  
NOW £79.00  
YOU SAVE £87.20**



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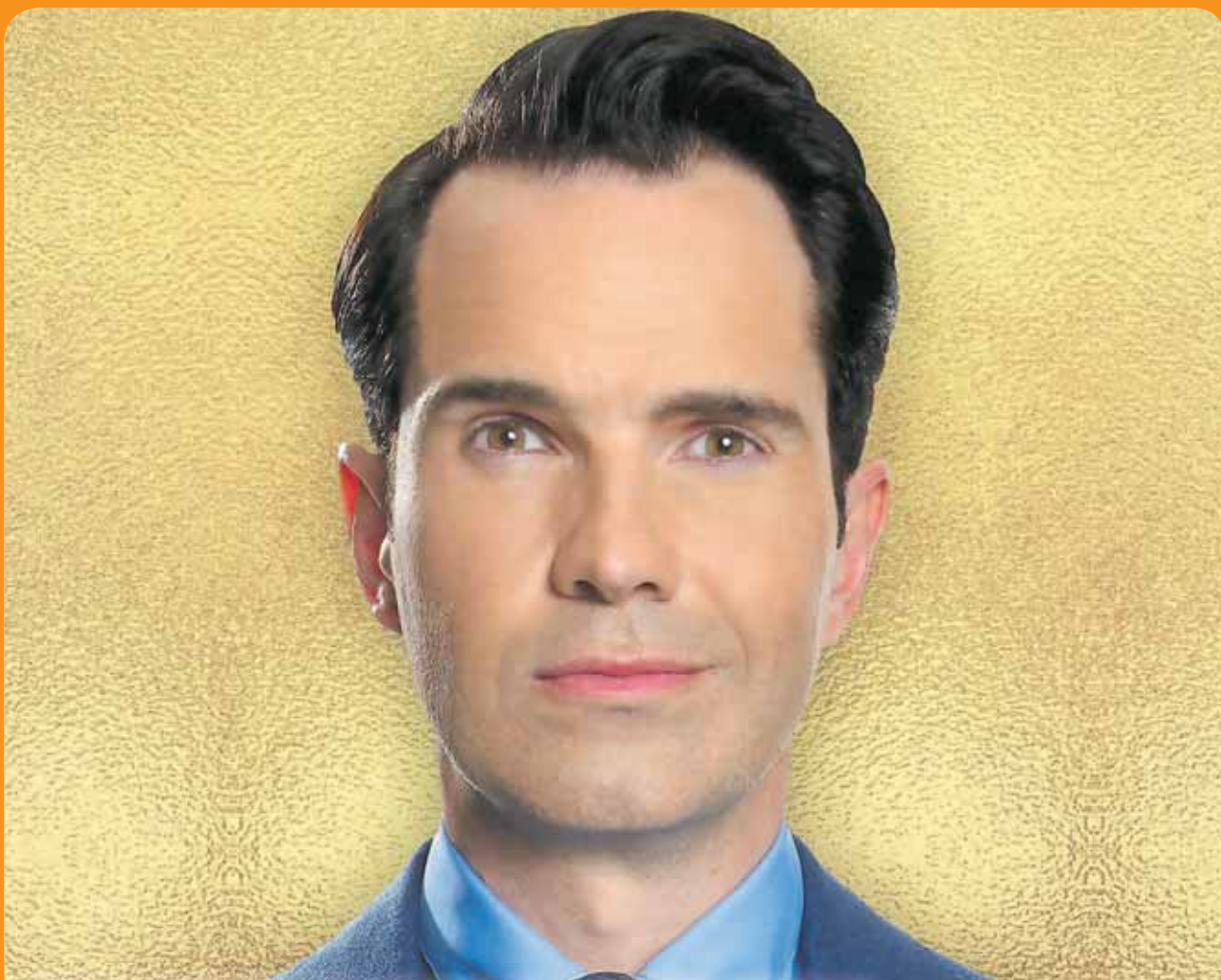
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**BUSY:** Host of Channel 4's 8 Out of 10 Cats has become one of the nation's most popular comic performers

## 'Mr TV' Jimmy Carr unveils yet another jaunt of the UK

You'll struggle to avoid the comic over the next two years as he tours the county

**T**HE BIG money, they say, is in the live shows. And for a man who has proved to be a dab hand when it comes to ensuring his cash lines his sizeable bank account, it is perhaps little wonder that Jimmy Carr will be back on the road again next year.

And with the early warning comes news of a string of shows on our doorstep, among them dates in Dartford, Bromley, Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury, Folkestone, Maidstone and Chatham.

The star of Channel 4's 8 Out of 10 Cats and a regular on panel shows, has still to finish his 2015 jaunt around the UK but will set out again in May on a marathon set of dates which will stretch into November 2017.

Called 'The Best Of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour' it will be a

blend of his best gags from his tours along with a host of new material.

Over the last 15 years, he has performed nine sell-out tours, playing nearly 2,000 shows to over two million people across four continents.

His relentless touring has also spawned a host of live DVD releases.

Host of the annual Big Fat Quiz of the Year, on Channel 4, he has also appeared on everything from Through the Keyhole with Keith Lemon to Have I Got News For You

The 43-year-old is perhaps best known off the stage for his involvement in a legal - but frowned upon - tax avoidance scheme which saw him come under fire from the prime minister David Cameron who described him pocketing fans' money and putting

it into "some very dodgy tax avoiding schemes".

Revealed by a newspaper investigation in 2012 - which also identified members of pop band Take That making a similar financial choice - Carr subsequently pulled out of the scheme and apologised for what he described as a "terrible error of judgement". He has since been the butt of countless jokes by his co-stars.

But despite suggestions at the time the wave of negative publicity could drown him and force him off our screens, he refused to crumble, took the jokes on the chin, and continued to build on a career which has seen him become omnipresent on our screens over recent years.

His reputation mostly restored, he remains one of the UK's best-loved and hardest-working

comedians.

His Best Of... tour rolls into Dartford's Orchard Theatre of May 31, 2016, followed weeks later by show at Bromley's Churchill Theatre on June 15 and at Chatham's Central Theatre on June 18.

Then it hits Maidstone Leisure Centre on July 1 before returning to Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre on October 4 and Margate's Winter Gardens on November 11.

Just when you think it's safe to enter the theatre, the tour sweeps back into Kent in 2017 for a date at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on February 8. And finally, at least for now, the good folk of Canterbury get to witness the show at the Marlowe Theatre on July 4.

Check the website of each of the theatres for details of prices and on sale dates.

» Email us details of your event to: [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk)  
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## Women Seeking

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**KIND** lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4290 Box 419673

**PAT**, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

**DISCREET** man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4290 Box 418167

**MARION**, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

**CHRISTINA**, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 4290 Box 410127

**PAT**, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc. Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

**MAUREEN**, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4274 Box: 405297

**CHANTELLE**, 51/3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

**ATTRACTIVE** solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4692 Box 419701

**MARIE**, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

**CHLOE**, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male with a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. Text only to Mailbox No: 4057558

**RACHEL** late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

**MELANIE**, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorcee with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. Text only to Mailbox No: 4112160

**ESSEX** lady, mid 60s, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

**HELEN**, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

**FEMALE**, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

**BLONDE** female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

**GORGEOUS** flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

**FEMALE** easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

**SUSIE** fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

**HAPPY** young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

**KATIE**, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

**NICE** female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

**ATTRACTIVE** lady early 50s, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, W/LTM professional, caring gent, 50-60s for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

**RACHEL** attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

**ALISON** 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**ALISON** 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

**DEBORAH** 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

**ATTRACTIVE** black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

**MAY** sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

**SUE** young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

**JACKIE** 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

**BECKY** 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

**LINDA** 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

**SARAH** 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

**WHITE** Knight 59 5'10 tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004

**DAVID**, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in Spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox No: 4112425

**CALM**, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**MALE** 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811

**MATTHEW**, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469

**45 year** old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649

**JOHN**, 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461

**TERESA** 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

**LUCY** exciting tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

**PETITE** blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

**ANGIE** attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, W/LTM honest, fun male for possible ltr, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

**LISA** attractive petite Filipino female, very lovely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

**48YR** old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

**BARRY** 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

**VINCENT** 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373797

**HAPPY** go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

**GARY** 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

**BARRY** 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855

**MALE** 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

**HARRY** 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

**69YR** old male, professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Kent/Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531

**55YR** old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, likes swimming, pool, seeking female for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418265

SUGAR

Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

**SIMON**, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, W/LTM a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

**48YR** old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

**BARRY** 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

**VINCENT** 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373797

**HAPPY** go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

**GARY** 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

**BARRY** 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855

**MALE** 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

**HARRY** 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

**69YR** old male, professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Kent/Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531

**55YR** old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, likes swimming, pool, seeking female for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418265



REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

**48YR** old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

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**GARY** 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

**BARRY** 49, 6ft, well built, kind, affectionate, loving, seeks special lady for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393855

**MALE** 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

**HARRY** 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

**COM E** dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft medium build, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine W/LTM similar female. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687

**PETE** 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

**PAUL** 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

**MALE** widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905

**Gay Seeking**

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**BI** male 57 slim GSOH seeks local guy for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943

**JESSICA**, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

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# Blades dazzle as professionals skate audience into a trance

**REVIEW: By Val Price**  
valerie.price1@archant.co.uk

ICE skating has been enjoying something of a revival of late - riding on the back of what seems a renewed interest in dance and driven by a host of TV talent shows.

So it was perhaps little surprise that an enthusiastic crowd gathered last weekend at the Silver Blades ice rink in Gillingham to watch The Professionals on Ice.

The professionals in question were those who had starred in ITV1's popular Dancing on Ice TV show and the Kent date was part of the latest UK tour.

Having already dazzled crowds with sell-out tours in 2013 and 2014, a return saw another stunning display.

Atmospheric lighting and dazzling costumes complemented the top class choreography as the stars of the show entertained the audience in style.

This was plenty to enjoy too. From the technical brilliance and athleticism of the dancers to simply enjoying the artistry of the performance with breathtaking spins and effortless lifts as the dancers



**SMOOTH:** Performance combined a blend of professionals and local talent

are spun a hair's width from the unforgiving ice surface.

The dancers were well supported by a host of local talent too. At one stage the creative director Matt Evers took to the ice with a six-year-old from Gillingham - called Adorable Amy - who performed a routine to the tune of My Boy Lollipop as the crowd clapped along to the music and cheered. She certainly boasted star quality

and is proof of how this latest revival is inspiring a whole new generation to strap on their skates.

Audience members were then treated to a display by local skaters and their interpretation of Michael Jackson's classic Thriller. This was no horror show though, as a couple are circled by zombies in what proved a spooky spectacle.

In short, it all added up to an evening high on creative and artis-

tic polish and which managed the task of combining the talents of the professionals with the reassuring sight of home grown talent emerging to, hopefully, ultimately take their place.

As the county's only ice rink, it proved the ideal venue and will, no doubt, welcome any return with open arms.

For details about the venue, see [www.silver-blades.co.uk](http://www.silver-blades.co.uk).

## Buy Vic Reeves artwork

A NUMBER of artworks by comedian Vic Reeves, who lives near Ashford, will go under the hammer at Westenhanger Auctioneers today (Sunday).

Some 75 works of his works will be on sale.



## Carve yourself a spoon

WANT something a little different? Then what about learning how to carve your own spoon?

On November 14 at the Wye Community Farm, you can do just that for £50 for the day, which runs 10am to 4pm and includes lunch. Paul Bradley will guide adults only in the art form.

## Laughter with Josh tour

LAST LEG star Josh Widdicombe will be performing at Margate's Theatre Royal on November 20.

Tickets for the rising comedy star's What Do I Do Now? tour are on sale now.



## Dolls house turns scary

A TERRIFYING tale of 'The Haunted Dolls' House comes to the Astor Community Centre in Deal on Friday, November 6.

The play focuses on Mr Dilleth who falls for a beautifully decorated, furnished dolls' house only to discover when the Moon is up, strange things occur. It starts at 8pm.



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## Rob Newman back on tour

COMEDIAN Rob Newman will be bringing The Brain Show to Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre on February 6 and Canterbury's Gulbenkian on February 13 next year.

Tickets on sale now.



## Dickens' play reimagined

MIDDLE Ground Theatre Company presents their hugely successful adaptation of Charles Dickens' The Signalman and The Waiting Room at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford next week.

It runs from Monday, November 2 to Wednesday November 4.

## Remix Peter Blake's work

DARTFORD born artist Sir Peter Blake - who famously designed the Beatles' Sgt Pepper album cover - has released an app to allow users to 'remix' his artwork.

'Dazzle It' is available now.



## Organist joins festival choir

THANET Festival Choir will be joined by Rochester Cathedral organist Scott Farrell at its performance at the Holy Trinity Church in Cliftonville on November 7.

The performance, which includes works by the likes of Dvorak and Sir William Walton, starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £14 or £12 in advance.

# Peppa brings home the bacon with live show

**REVIEW: By Michael Adkins**

michael.adkins@archant.co.uk

PEPPA's favourite pastime is jumping in muddy puddles - a love she shares with my two-year-old daughter.

And the cheeky and slightly spoilt pink pig that has captured the hearts of millions of children has somehow become a favourite in our household.

It sort of snuck up on us, one day Amelia was not fussed and the next Pep's Pig - as she called it - was all she wanted on.

So imagine my delight when I heard Peppa Pig Surprise tour was starting at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

Peppa Pig is a television series that divides opinion. Some love it for the simple but effective cartoon characters and storylines, while others claim it has left their children with a sense of mischievous naughtiness they can't shake.

But either way it's big business.

From start to finish Amelia and her friend Poppy were entranced. Whether it was the energetic and high-pitched lead character Daisy



(who I was shocked to discover was a real person), the overall production and clever use of puppets or the catchy tunes and bright set designs this is a well polished show. It's quite scary that adults can actually sound like the characters you hear on television. I wasn't sure it would translate on stage but it worked and the audience loved it.

All Peppa's friends were there; Danny Dog, Suzy Sheep, Pedro Pony and of course her cry baby brother George. And it wouldn't be

the same if Daddy Pig wasn't messing up and mummy Pig leading the gang on a jolly good adventure. Hang on - am I talking about the show or my home, it's starting to sound too familiar. Put it together with a cameo from Red Monkey and Mr Potato and you can't go wrong in the eyes of any child under the age of six. It's pure piggy heaven.

Peppa Pig Surprise comes to the Woodville, Gravesend, from April 15 to 16 next year. Tickets range from £13 to £21.



**POPULAR:** The original Peppa which captured the imagination



**LIVE:** ...and how she appears on stage during the current tour

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# Get ready to revive those Rat Pack glory days

Another show on tour aims to recreate the magic of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jnr and Dean Martin

**W**E CANNOT get enough of the legendary Rat Pack sound, it seems, as a new show dedicated to the memory of the kings of swing rolls into the county.

Rat Pack Live boasts stars from the West End in a brand-new show designed to recreate the Las Vegas heyday of the likes of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jnr and Dean Martin.

The evening's Dean, Mark Halliday, has performed as Dean Martin to critical acclaim both in the West End of London and in international touring productions.

Mark also spent two years in the States creating the role of Hades in Disney's new musical Hercules and

has lead appearances in runaway touring hit shows Girls Night Out and Aspects of Love under his belt.

Explains Michael Taylor, the show's producer: "Mark carries off Dino's stage presence to a tee.

"Spirit glass in one hand, microphone in the other, he captures Martin's polished irreverence on beautifully-performed songs like Ain't That a Kick in the Head, Mambo Italiano and That's Amore."

Stephen Rashbrook, as Frank Sinatra, has played Ol' Blue Eyes at the Strand, Savoy and Adelphi Theatres in the West End of London and on UK, European and US tours. His stage career has seen him appear with the likes of Dame Judi Dench, Ben Kingsley, Daniel Day Lewis at the National



**COOL:** Rat Pack recreated

Theatre, in the West End and on Broadway.

Jim Whitley, as Sammy Davis Jnr, as well as extensively touring the UK as both Sammy and Nat King Cole, the former Manchester City international footballer has previously performed alongside Judy Carmichael at New York's famous Rainbow Rooms.

Featuring all the patter and razzamatazz of the Rat Pack's infamous live stage show, the producer says those attending the show should be prepared to "experience the definition of cool".

The original trio ruled the roost during the 1950s and 60s and their shows in Las Vegas became legendary. In addition to their smooth sounds, they enjoyed witty chat on

stage and developed a worldwide following. All three also became stars of the big screen too in movies which continue to entertain today.

Rat Pack Live aims to recreate those days.

Featured hits of Dean Martin's include Everybody Loves Somebody, Volare and Memories are Made of This; Sammy Davis Jnr's Black Magic and Me and My Shadow; and Sinatra's classics Fly Me to the Moon, My Kind of Town and My Way.

Rat Pack Live takes place at the Central Theatre in Chatham on November 13. Curtain up at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £22 or £20 for concessions. To order, contact the box office on 01634 338 338 or online at [www.medwayticketslive.co.uk](http://www.medwayticketslive.co.uk).

## Festive family fun day

ASHFORD town centre will be hosting a festive family fun day on November 21 at the countdown to Christmas.

There will be a whole day of events and entertainment planned, along with the traditional turning on of the festive lights.

Peppa Pig will also be making a special appearance at the County Square and Park Mall shopping centres as well as greeting fans in the High Street too.

## Karting for Christmas

LOOKING for something a little different for your staff Christmas party this year?

Karting circuit Buckmore Park near Chatham is promising to put some pace into the proceedings with a host of packages available for work outings or with friends.

The events all include a full slap-up Christmas roast dinner with all the trimmings.

## Double header art show

A JOINT art exhibition showcasing the work of Kent's Fiona Scott-Wilson and Shropshire's Penelope Timmis, is running at the David Burley Gallery in Birchington until November 13.

Both artists have enjoyed critical acclaim, with Ms Timmis short-listed for the Daily Mail's 'Not The Turner' prize in 2004.

The exhibition space is inside the library in Birchington, near Margate.

## Mark Thomas sells out

COMEDIAN Mark Thomas' show in Whitstable in December is already a complete sell-out.

The performer, who has appeared frequently on BBC Radio 4, will be bringing his touring show Trespass, which he describes as a mix of theatre, stand-up, activism, a dash of journalism and a dollop of mayhem show to the Horsebridge Centre on Friday, December 4.

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# Stein is cooking up a Cornish treat

## TRAVEL REVIEW: Cornwall

By Claire Spreadbury

**W**HEN you look at Rick Stein on the telly, it's hard to believe he owns a restaurant that turned 40 this year.

It's even more difficult to imagine him running a nightclub, which is exactly what The Seafood Restaurant, based in Cornwall's thriving port of Padstow, first started life as. Stein and his then-wife Jill bought the club in 1974, but they had to shut it down after too many fights broke out between burly fishermen.

A year later, it emerged as an e-terrie and 'Padstein' - as it's known - was born. Stein has certainly brought the tourists to this pretty part of north Cornwall, but he also now appears to own half of it.

Over the past four decades, the chef has opened a restaurant, bistro, deli, bakery, fish and chip shop, fishery, cookery school, cafe and gift shop in the town (plus a pub in nearby St Merryn), and you can rest your weary head at one of the 40 rooms dotted across his different venues.

It's very much a family business and despite now being divorced, Jill still plays a large role, recently renovating the town's luxurious St Edmunds House for guests to stay at, while also working closely with the buyers at Stein's Gift Shop. Their three sons, Jack, Edward and Charlie, are also involved in the businesses in various different guises.

We check in to one of the 16 rooms above The Seafood Restaurant and delight in dining somewhere where there's often a waiting list, particularly in the height of summer. It's good to know, however, that the Oyster Bar situated in the middle of the restaurant does not take bookings,



**TREATS:** Rick Stein is on to a good thing with his business empire on the Cornish coast

and there's also a little terrace upstairs, where you can sit outside and clink cocktails, with no reservation required.

This relaxed ethos is important to Stein. Despite being a renowned foodie haven, The Seafood Restaurant has no dress code whatsoever - you're as welcome to turn up in a tuxedo as you are in shorts and flip-flops - and guests do both.

Eating and sleeping here feels very

Mediterranean - you're surrounded by white walls, it's relaxed, and the tiled floors and painted furniture in the room wouldn't look out of place in Greece. The food, unsurprisingly, is delicious.

Eating out is all well and good, but being given the chance to get your hands dirty is an experience loved by foodies everywhere. Stein's one-dish evening courses offer superb value for money, starting from £40, and there

are tasting evenings for even less.

As we don our Padstow Seafood School aprons, we take to our stations - MasterChef style - and attempt to follow instructions, removing poop from prawns, chopping veg, sweating it down and making the stock, all while guzzling back delicious white wine, which is discretely topped up at every available opportunity.

Puckey is full of top tips, from cutting vegetables like peppers with



## TRAVEL FACTS

Claire Spreadbury was a guest of Rick Stein's The Seafood Restaurant in Padstow, where doubles cost from £154 per night, including breakfast.

A three-course winter lunch at The Seafood Restaurant starts from £31 (subject to terms and conditions, please see website for full details). For more information, visit [www.rickstein.com](http://www.rickstein.com).

their skin down so they don't bruise, to removing green middles from garlic cloves to avoid heartburn, and leaving the root on an onion while chopping it to prevent watery eyes.

There's a mixed bag of people here. Sally and John have come from Bristol and have food intolerances, there are some young lovers enjoying a more innovative date night, ageing locals and even older singletons, who love cooking but want to learn more.

Half a bottle of wine in and it's difficult to care about which comes first - the oil or the seasoning (if you're interested, you should always season first, or else it creates a barrier) but the hunger pangs are kicking in now.

As the paellas are ready for eating, we grab a seat at the enormous table by the window, which looks out on the harbour and towards Rock (another foodie haven where Michelin-starred chef Nathan Outlaw now owns a restaurant, hotel and pub). More wine is served and we tuck into our meals, being offered any leftovers to take home.

As Rick Stein continues to expand his empire the only fights likely to break out these days are from hungry diners hoping for a place at one of his sought-after tables.

## Film Reviews by Damon Smith



**Spectre**  
12A, 148 minutes

DANIEL Craig's licence to kill as Ian Fleming's suave secret agent comes full circle in Spectre, a robust yet emotionally underpowered tale of espionage and dark family secrets that ends with a series of whimpers rather than an

almighty bang.

If Skyfall popped a cork on a muscular new era for 007, becoming the highest grossing film of all time in the UK, then Spectre is the morning after, when the champagne has gone flat, leftover snacks are starting to go stale and someone has fallen asleep face down on the sofa.

That could be any of the four screenwriters, who doze off after the tour-de-force opening sequence at a Mexican day of the dead parade, and allow plot holes and lapses in logic to pock their narrative.

Death sequences are anti-climaxes and the central love story, which is supposed to kindle doubts in Bond's mind about his loyalty to Queen and country, barely smoulders, let alone melts celluloid.

Spectre was always going to struggle to meet expectations, but it's disappointing how far short this

24th big screen mission falls.

At 148 minutes, the film overstates its welcome and a number of key scenes overrun, particularly the introduction of Waltz's shadowy archvillain.

When one of the characters rebukes Bond's recklessness and tells the agent he has gone too far, nothing could be further from the truth.

Spectre doesn't go far enough.

**Outcast**  
15, 99 minutes

NICOLAS Cage and Hayden Christensen wield their swords with intent in this historical action adventure, which marks the directorial debut of Nick Powell.

Twelfth century crusader Jacob (Christensen) and his mentor Gallain (Cage) escape the ghosts of the past in China, where they are drawn into a bitter family feud. The



Chinese Emperor is dead and jealous eldest son, Shing (Andy On), intends to seize the throne by slaying his younger siblings, Princess Lian (Liu Yifei) and little Prince Zhao (Bill Su Jiahang).

**Under Milk Wood**  
15, 88 minutes

KEVIN Allen directs this surreal

and erotically charged adaptation of Dylan Thomas' 1954 radio play, co-written by Murray Lachlan Young and Michael Breen, which is the first cinema production since Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton graced the screen in 1972.

Rhys Ifans is blind seaman Captain Cat while Charlotte Church pops up as Polly Garter, singer and floor scrubber.



**D**ID you know that some flowers change colour when the flower has been pollinated, letting insects know there are no rewards on offer?

Others control exactly when pollinators enter or leave by opening and closing their petals at specific times, or emit a particular scent, or guide insects to the pollen through specific markings on their petals.

These and other fascinating facts are charted and beautifully photographed in *Pollination Power* by award-winning wildlife photographer Heather Angel, who has given workshops and lectures worldwide and worked closely with Kew.

For this, her 60th book, she visited 20 countries, trekking on foot, riding on horseback up mountains in Kazakhstan and using vehicles as mobile hides to capture the finer details of how insects and mammals are able to draw nectar from a variety of plants.

"New types of pollinators are being discovered - both by day and at night. As well as bats, the list of non-flying mammals continues to grow from small rodents in South Africa to marsupials in Australia," she observes.

"Lizards and geckos are known to pollinate some native flowers on Atlantic and Indian Ocean islands."

Birds are also unwitting pollinators, reaching for nectar in flowers while the pollen-rich anthers brush their chest.

Annual and perennial plants can prolong the period they remain at-



**HOVER:** A hummingbird hawk-moth hovering to sip nectar from a loofah flower, in China, taken from *Pollination Power* by Heather Angel

## Weird world of the pollinators

tractive to pollinators by staggering the opening of their flowers. Magnolia grandiflora flowers, for instance, control when their visitors enter and leave by the time the petals open and close. Beetles enter when the stigmas (the central tip which receives pollen for fertilisation) are receptive, become trapped overnight and leave after the stamens release pollen.

Plants also have control of their pollen distribution, through attraction, scent and guiding lines.

Bees are attracted to hues of violet, blue, yellow and white, but cannot see the colour red.

"You see a range of flowers and some are much more attractive to insects than others. Initially it's colour and shape which lure them in. Once

they've found a good source they will come back to it.

"It was thought that red flowers only attract birds. Hummingbirds pollinate the red flowers of Chilean lantern trees, but I noticed that big native bumble bees were also feeding on them.

"Why? Because it was found that particular flowers reflect some blue

wavelengths, which enables bees to see the red flowers."

Quite a lot of flowers change colour after they've been pollinated, she explains. In others, flowers are shaped to protect the pollen in adverse weather and to guide insects in.

**Pollination Power by Heather Angel is published by Kew, priced £25. Available now.**



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Stoke Rochford Hall, Lincs 26 Feb, 2016 • Quote: SR2-KOS

Enjoy a Fab Feb 60s theme party break at a super country house hotel in the heart of rural Lincolnshire. Stoke Rochford Hall, near Grantham, is a unique hotel housed in a historic Victorian country mansion set in formal landscaped gardens and 28 acres of parkland. Standard rooms are all located in the Old Stable Courtyard, which is adjacent to the Mansion. All have en-suite bathrooms with complimentary toiletries, colour TV with Freeview, direct dial phone, free wifi access, tea and coffee making facilities, trouser press and hairdryer.

There will be live tribute acts both nights and guests have free access to the hotel's leisure club which provides a state-of-the-art gym, heated covered pool, sauna and steam room.

**INCLUDED:** 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Live 60s theme entertainment both nights • Free use of leisure facilities (indoor pool & gym)



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Entertainment  
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## Christmas Cracker Party through the Decades

20 November, 2015 • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy live music from original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney - Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available





# Top class facilities to suit all needs and requirements

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Applicants will be asked to select three subjects from any of the four option blocks.

If you opt to take IB diploma subjects then you will need to take two of them, and these will be in the same block; for example IB maths studies and IT in a global society count as one choice.

As well as teaching time, you will have some time for private study which you can use to catch up with work or you can go off site if you are up to date with everything.

There is no set uniform as such for

the Sixth Form but you are asked to dress smartly for school. For boys this means shirt, tie, trousers and shoes and for girls, smart office dress. Hoodies are not allowed.

A comprehensive personal, social and health education package, as well as UCAS support and careers advice and guidance is also offered.

A range of top-class facilities are offered, including a large KS5 Zone with classrooms, wireless network, brand new Fitness Suite and Sports Hall and climbing wall.

Headteacher Jane Partridge said: "At Northfleet Technology College, we 'go beyond' to ensure all our students are respectful, motivated and aspire to achieve. Nowhere is this truer than in our successful and ever expanding Sixth Form.

"We work hard to ensure that our students have access to courses, either in this school or in one of the local consortium schools, which best suit their needs and meet future requirements.

"Our last Ofsted visit (October 2012) rated our Sixth Form as 'good,' commenting that 'students make good progress and almost all continue with their education because the course which they

follow have been tailored well to meet their needs.'

"Our Sixth Form is exceptionally well led by Mrs Donaldson and her team.

"I hope that you get time to contact her for a visit, as I am sure if you do will be extremely impressed with what NTC has to offer."



## Sixth Form

Have you been looking for the perfect place to continue with your studies post-16?

Then look no further! NTC is the place for you.

Come along to our Sixth Form Open Evening and see what we have to offer you.

**Thursday 26th November 2015 5:00 - 7:00 pm**

(Sixth Form presentation at 6pm)

Colyer Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8BG • Headteacher: Jane Partridge  
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# Guide to Sixth Form Education



**S**T Edmund's Sixth Form in Canterbury provides opportunities for pupils to excel in and to enjoy the academic, sporting, musical, artistic and dramatic aspects of life, to take part in expeditions and enrichment activities, and to explore the potential for leadership and responsibility.

All Sixth Formers are affiliated to Houses where their tutors and Housemasters oversee their academic and pastoral progression.

In addition, the Head of Sixth Form organises and delivers a bespoke Sixth Form programme of talks while the

Head of Further Education and Careers and his team offer individual advice and guidance.

This all adds up to ensuring a positive Sixth Form experience.

As well as a choice of 24 A level subject available at St Edmund's, the Extended Project Qualification programme is also well established as part of the Sixth Form curriculum and this option is frequently chosen by those who are academically ambitious.

Creativity and curiosity are encouraged and topics chosen are diverse.

Consistently excellent A level grades enable pupils to

accept offers at the top ranking universities in the country each year.

In summer 2015, St Edmund's celebrated the highest A level results achieved since 2009 with an overall pass rate of 99.42%.

It is also worth noting that, due to small class sizes and excellent teaching, St Edmund's is adding significant 'value added' with 50% of candidates exceeding their nationally recognised ALIS prediction.

To find out more, please contact Amanda Selmon on 01227 475601 or come along to the Sixth Form Open Evening on November 11.



**T**HERE are many reasons why Meopham is a good place to continue your education.

One key reason is the wide range of courses on offer, including BTECs and A levels.

Another reason to choose Meopham is that it is a tight-knit sixth form which makes getting to know each other a whole lot easier. Everyone knows everyone so conversation is never lacking.

This also means that socialising isn't a problem and you can enjoy spending break and lunch in the comfort of the sixth form's common room.

Socialising doesn't just hap-

pen inside of school but outside too, get involved with the other students to organise the end of year school prom, it's up to you to decide how you want the evening to go.

If you feel that you need extra support in a subject, tutors are more than happy to provide the help needed.

Located in Gravesham, and a member of the Swale Academies Trust, Meopham prides itself on providing academic excellence in a rural setting.

Headteacher Suzanne Dickinson said: "We focus on delivering traditional academic subjects, in small teaching groups. We also are committed to teaching in traditional

classroom spaces, now and in the future. We strongly believe that this is the best way to secure high quality learning for our students. Our new building, which will be completed in 2017 as part of the government's priority schools re-building programme, will further facilitate this approach.

"In partnership with parents, we provide sound guidance and unwavering support so that our young people can meet the demands of today's world. The best way to discover what life is like at Meopham is to visit us and speak with both staff and pupils. I look forward to welcoming you here soon."



**St Edmund's School  
Canterbury**

**Take a  
closer look  
at St Ed's**

More than a school



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**Sixth Form  
Open Evening**

Wednesday 11 November | 6.30pm



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**Sixth Form Open Evening  
Wednesday 25th November 2015**

**5:30pm - 7:30pm**

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Let's push for a grammar revival

ALAN Bainbridge (Letters, 25.10) describes the selective nature of the grammar school system as heinous yet it was this method that allowed many working class pupils, myself and my wife included, to access an excellent standard of education which then led on to university and a good career, something largely previously denied to those from humble backgrounds.

It is no surprise that the liberal left decry the concept, as an inferior education system makes life easier for poor teachers, while the ambitions awakened among the youngsters who benefit may lead to them rejecting the idea that they should know their place and continue supporting the ideologues who wish to recruit the working class for their causes.

The system, as conceived by the 1944 Act and implemented by the post war Labour government, has nothing to do with the socio-economic status of parents and everything to do with allowing bright pupils to fulfil their potential. Far from abolishing grammar schools we should be looking to implement a full return to the position obtained in the 1950s and early 1960s so that all who could benefit from such an education are given the chance to do so.

**Colin Bullen,**  
Tonbridge

## Hidden statistics tell the full story

LET'S welcome the fact that Kent County Council has admitted the selection process for grammar schools is unfair and that children from poorer backgrounds are at a grave disadvantage compared with those middle class children who benefit from tutoring at private schools or individual coaching.

But problems with Kent's grammar school system do not end there; the new commission should take a wider look at how selection works - or does not work.

For example, KCC should publish the number of pupils from every primary school who do not take the Kent Test and the reason given; the public would be surprised that, in some schools, the number taking the test is in single figures. While this might be the result of a decision taken in principle by parents, the suspicion must be that teachers and governors decide that many children have no chance, and are not entered.

Similarly, it's well-known that a significant number of pupils who get

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## It is wrong to label our children failures

ALL credit to the organisers of the 11 Plus and Kent Test Conference (pictured), (KoS, last week).

But, while the mechanics of the selection process are important, the vital question is why are the results of that test used to separate Kent's 11 year olds into different schools for the next seven years of their learning?

One of your speakers claimed "there is no appetite for change" to Kent's selective system; but given that the test is designed to ensure that nearly 80 per cent of our children don't pass each year I'm sure there are many families who would like alternatives to be considered.

Especially when, as your editorial said (KoS, 18.10), the schools attended by those who fail "have to compete in league tables with one hand effectively tied behind their backs".

I read with dismay (KoS, 11.10) that Medway councillor Mike O'Brien "wished all those who passed well". All Kent's children

deserve to be wished well! Yet our school system gives almost four out of every five children the extra obstacle of being labelled as failing.

Kent needs all its young people to fulfil their potential to the full if the county is to prosper in the highly competitive global future. That won't happen with the educational and social divisions caused by grammar schools.

As Alan Bainbridge suggested (Letters, 25.10) evidence shows the non-selective systems, when like for like comparisons are made, produce higher levels of achievement across the whole school population.

The most able children still do well and the less able do better by learning alongside a full cross-section of their peers and not being labelled at 11. For all these reasons I hope many in Kent will look with interest at Jeremy Corbyn's ideas for a fairer 'good local school for all' approach.

**Richard Stainton,**  
Whitstable

secondary schools in the county widely underachieve compared to similar educational authorities.

**James Parish,**  
Edenbridge

## Fight to protect our AONBs

NATIONAL planners have overruled local democracy allowing 62 homes to be built in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Hawkhurst. The slippery slope has arrived and the

Garden of England, until now protected by comprehensive planning law, may well change out of all recognition.

We all understand the need to build houses but brownfield sites should be exhausted before AONBs are even considered.

Local councillors and town hall officials have made it plain that not only do they not support such development in AONBs; but the whole infrastructure must be improved if town hall services and responsibilities are not to be overstretched to the point of failure.

National government will soon ask Kent to shoulder more of the migrant problem. Net migration figures last year were 300,000+. Where are all these people? Our town halls are already spending record sums protecting and looking after unaccompanied migrant minors.

If current planning law is to be swept aside by national diktat then parish, town hall and county councils must resort to a democratic referendum to counteract and stop this madness.

**Edward La Coste,**  
Lamberhurst

## Don't let Turing be dismissed

FIRSTLY, I fully agree for once with Colin Bullen regarding the NHS and getting rid of PFI contracts; and with Drs Hobday et al regarding the junior doctors.

As for Harry Williams I point out to readers that he has stood for far-right groups and parties such as the BNP for election for many years and his views should be seen in this light. Hence his ongoing denial of climate change and attempt to denigrate Alan Turing.

Certainly the Polish code breakers and Marian Rejewski's computer were operating in the 1930s; but by 1939 the latter was destroyed by the outbreak of war and the Nazis had greatly improved the Enigma machine.

Turing and the team at Bletchley Park had to begin largely from scratch and helped by the capture of a machine broke its code. After the war, Turing began to develop early chaos and artificial intelligence theory but fell foul of Cold War paranoia, the spy scandal and latterly a prosecution for being gay which led to his untimely suicide.

Turing was thus neither martyr nor saint, but, sadly posthumously, a widely acknowledged science genius and highly significant figure in modern gay history.

**Ray Duff,**  
Folkestone

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

**Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**





## Whitstable Harbour

by **Peter Banks, Tankerton**

To see your photograph printed, email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk), or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi. Please note, our relationship with MyFerryLink has now come to an end. We thank them for their long support.

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sleigh bells

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## Drop in sales for operator Eurostar

A TURBULENT year which has seen frequent migrant incursions into the Channel Tunnel caused a five per cent drop in sales for continental rail operator Eurostar.

Despite that the company announced year on year growth of two per cent.

In July the company reported record numbers of passengers with more than one million people using the service - the highest number since it launched.

## Optimism grows for resort's impact

VISITORS to the North Kent B2B conference at Brands Hatch recently unanimously agreed London Paramount would bring a boost to the area.

All 45 businesses which took part in the survey agreed it would help generate jobs and bring growth to the local economy.

Darren Rigden, partner for Crowe Clark Whitehill said: "There is a massive groundswell of support for the development."

# It's women on top as chamber elects first female president

THE Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce (Kicc) has unveiled its first ever female president.

The woman who was given the prestigious position at the head of the chamber, which acts as a champion to the county's business community, is Carole Barron, the director of innovation and enterprise at the University of Kent.

She was elected president - replacing outgoing head Christopher Page - following time spent working as a director of the chamber as well as the chairman of its Canterbury and district economic development group.

The appointment was approved at the chamber's annual general meeting on October 23.

She will join the respected Jo James who has been the long term chief executive of the chamber, which has its headquarters in Ashford.

The president takes on a strategic role in running the chamber.

Responding to her success Mrs Barron, from Canterbury, said: "It is an honour and a privilege to be elected to this position and feel it is a real opportunity to support one of the



**EMPOWERED:** New president for the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Carole Barron.

most proactive accredited chambers in the south east.

"I hope I will be a role model for other women seeking similar positions"

The election marks a key moment

in the history of Kent business, with Mrs Barron spearheading the charge for females in business. She's the first since its inception at the start of the 20th century.

She said: "FTSE 100 companies

have now met a voluntary target of 25 per cent women board members and we all welcome this, but it is a small snapshot of businesses in the UK. We need to do more to ensure women take up leadership and board level positions.

"I am fortunate that I work in a supportive environment where we champion women in senior leadership roles, not everyone can say the same so we need more role models and mentors."

Current figures suggest women working full time earned 9.5 per cent less than men last year, with 41 per cent of female employees working part time, compared to 11.7 per cent of men between October and December last year.

A membership organisation, the Kicc provides a range of business support services to more than 1,200 members across the county.

Starting in 1900, the chamber has committees across the county to help support businesses across Kent.

There are currently two women on the directors board, out of 17 members.

# A great place to do business...

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# Advertisement Feature - Backing Kent Business

## Best of business on show at Discovery Park

THE East Kent B2B 2015 show takes place at Discovery Park, Sandwich this Wednesday.

The conference takes place on November 4 and will feature around 60 exhibitors showcasing their latest products and services – many with special event offers.

The event will feature expert keynote speakers with a nod to the digital and creative sectors based in the region.

Opening the day will be Ian Dickson, multi-award winning business coach and founder of Unlocked Success. He says he'll be looking forward to the event, and being able to share more than 10 years of experience, knowledge and tips to help make 2016 attendees best year in business.

CEO of Jobs in Kent, Paul Adams will be considering business trends for the next five to 10 years and the move away from 20th century crowds to a smaller, more local audience, offering local business to a global audience.

Mr Andrews is passionate about small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and presents the weekly Business Bunker radio programme showcasing the best in business in Kent.

The event will also host digital sessions, giving bite-sized digital marketing training throughout the day and examining a variety of topics in-



cluding simple SEO, and improving pay per click conversions.

Other business related workshops will look at areas like how to boost employee engagement for greater productivity and integrating video into your marketing.

Representatives from Crowe Clark Whitehill will look at 5 major changes affecting your pocket, while business expert William Wood will teach you how to make your business enjoyable and scalable, helping to create time and financial freedom.

Chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Jo James said: "The East Kent B2B is always an exciting and diverse conference and exhibition.

"We are looking forward to holding it at Discovery Park this year and welcoming delegates from across the region to meet our exhibitors and enjoy a day of networking and business."

The conference also offers the chance for businesses to network with one another, with potentially



**LEADING:** Award-winning business coach Ian Dickson will be one of the conference's key-note speakers

hundreds of organisations attending.

There will also be speed-networking available, offering a fast, fun opportunity to network with a range of businesses.

As well as Mr Dickson and Mr Andrews, the conference will feature Zoe Cairns from ZC Social.

Ms Cairns will be looking at harness-

ing the power of social media ads while Lizzie Hodgson will consider what content strategy means for SMEs.

Lastly, Dan Maudhub, managing director of Wonderful Creative Agency, one of the leading digital marketing agencies in the UK, will feature on the day.

Mr Maudhub will be discussing

how to "transform your customers into active ambassadors" as well as developing and executing strategies that generate breakthrough results.

The East Kent B2B will run on November 4 from 9am to 4pm, and offers a wide array of advice and networking opportunities, can your business afford to miss out?

**4 NOVEMBER 9am-4pm**  
Discovery Park, Sandwich

**East Kent B2B 2015**  
KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**10 business reasons to come along**

**#B2B1000**

#### 1. The best keynote speakers

Award winning Ian Dickson is headlining the event alongside expert keynotes from Paul Andrews, Lizzie Hodgson, Dan Maudhub and Zoe Cairns

#### 2. Highly informative workshops on key business issues

- Integrating video into your marketing
- Boost your productivity & secure growth through employee engagement
- Getting organised in your business
- Five major changes affecting your pocket

#### 3. Free business and start up advice

We are giving away FREE 1:1 business advice sessions with an impartial Chamber of Commerce advisor

#### 4. Keep up with the latest on digital marketing with our digi-sessions

- Early bird Twitter session
- Introduction to Simple SEO
- Improving Your PPC Conversions
- Fixing Technical SEO Issues
- Multichannel Digital Marketing

#### 5. Speed networking sessions

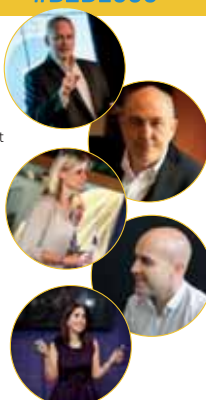
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**7. Increase awareness of your company** and its products/services great networking opportunities

**8. Reach new businesses you usually cannot access**- hundreds of businesses will be there

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**5 July**  
Ashford International Hotel,  
Ashford

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**12 NOVEMBER 9am-5pm**  
The Orchards, East Malling

**digital**  
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Digital in Kent offers you valuable content with practical takeaways that will alter your digital and social media marketing tactics.

#### Programme

- 08.45** Doors Open
- 09.20** Welcome with **Morag Welham**, Head of Special Interests, KM Group
- 09.30** **Katie King**: How Kent businesses can drive change through social media
- 10.05** **Nick Huxsted**: How to become a local content marketing expert
- 10.40** **Joanna Wake**: Facebook - Just how important...
- 11.50** **Innovative, informative workshops**
  - 1. Video Blogging : How to Engage with an Audience
  - 2. The power of publishing content on LinkedIn
  - 3. Straight Thinking about your Brand: and how to get it right
  - 4. How to Increase Online Sales and Profits
- 12.30** **Luke Brynley-Jones**: Innovative content marketing techniques that deliver ROI
- 12.45** Open Forum
- 1.00** Lunch
- 2.00** Speed Sessions
- 3.30** **Phil Dedman**: Demystifying SEO
- 4.00** **Lloyd Amsdon**: Building a brand in the digital age
- 5.00** Close



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**SPARKY:** Bonfire Night is the perfect curtain-raiser for Peugeot's latest firecracker hot hatch, based on the sleek and practical 308



## Peugeot's 308GTi is back with a bang this month

PEUGEOT has chosen Guy Fawkes Night to cause an explosion in the hot hatch sector – the launch of the eagerly-awaited 308GTi.

Though based on the smooth and elegant 308 family hatchback, the new GTi version has its own distinct identity

It also marks Peugeot's return to the medium performance car segment after skipping two generations – the 307 and previous model 308.

The new GTi is priced from £26,555 and features the most powerful 1.6-litre petrol engine currently available, in two power outputs, 250hp and 270hp.

This enables the 308 GTi 250 to sprint to 62mph in just 6.2 seconds – 6.0 seconds flat for the 270 (priced from £28,155).

But Peugeot claims the new scorcher is not just about straight line power; a Torsen limited-slip differential on the 270's front driving wheels is designed to improve cornering by channelling driving power to the wheel with the greatest traction, boosting cornering speed, grip and handling.

The car sits 11mm lower, and the squat and powerful look is enhanced by bespoke GTi front and rear designs. Dedicated colours are also featured for the GTi, including an exclusive 'Coupe Franche' red and black two-tone design for the



270 – available for an extra £1,300.

The performance theme continues inside, with 'Peugeot Sport' and GTi signatures, plus racing-style aluminium foot pedals, foot rest and gear knob. And in a nod to the 1980s hot hatch heyday, red stitching abounds on the sports seats, door panels, gear lever and premium mats.

The compact steering wheel of the 308 range also comes into its own here, customised with a GTi logo – naturally.

The new 308GTi has its own identity for sure, executed with the same taste already applied to the existing 308 line-up – and as already shown by its 208GTi supermini stablemate.



# Mazda unveils its CX symbol crossover

Carmakers may claim junior crossovers are sexy but only Mazda's fresh, stylish and agile CX-3 has come close so far. **Steve Loader** puts it through its paces

**A**RE compact crossovers sexy? Motor manufacturers claim they are, but it was a long time before I was seduced.

The Nissan Juke? Too ugly. SsangYong's new Tivoli? Great value for the money, but no looker. What about the Renault Captur? Close, and very affordable.

But I fell for the Mazda CX-3 earlier this year after driving some quiet and challenging roads on England's northern border – soon to become an international border?

Would I still be besotted after a week's testing back in Kent though? Absolutely. This 'girl' has it all: looks inside and out, terrific handling married to a comfortable ride – hard to achieve in a crossover/SUV – and low running costs from lively front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive (AWD) powertrains.

And if you are snobby about her family background, I say that Mazda has pulled away from the mainstream; many premium brands would have liked to have designed something that feels as harmonious as this.

They would also be hard-pressed to deliver such generous specifications at the price (from £17,595) with



standard kit including steering wheel-mounted controls and electric/heated/folding door mirrors, and intuitive seven-inch touchscreen and multimedia control system.

Some colleagues have carped that the Mazda is still expensive but

there's a higher class and quality about the Mazda – you might dally with the Captur, but you'd marry the CX.

And the key reason is 'Skyactiv', the suite of technologies that has seen Mazda dramatically re-engineer



the modern car, creating lightness with strength, power with economy and low emissions, and driving pleasure with passenger comfort.

The epitome of the Skyactiv treatment is the 4th generation MX-5 roadster, also launched this year, but

## Mazda CX-3 1.5 105ps 2WD Sport Nav Diesel

Price:	£21,895
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Renault Captur

the CX-3 stands close behind it, with the AWD versions laying claim to the 4x4 GTi label once applied to the Toyota RAV4.

The 120 and 150PS (119 and 148bhp) 2.0-litre petrol models appeal most to private buyers, though the 105PS (104bhp) 1.5 diesel tested here is worth the £1,400 premium for its smoothness, low down response and 70.6mpg (combined).

If you want even more grip and a smidge of off-road ability then the diesel CX3 also comes with AWD (£23,395). Not that the petrol options are shabby; the 120PS comes only with front wheel drive and feels a little lighter and less precise on the handling front. It also sounds less refined than the diesel, but I enjoyed the well-planted 150PS AWD petrol version (£22,495) at the launch.

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Customer Deposit	£250	Duration of Agreement	49 months
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Amount of Credit	£12,995	APR Representative	5.9%
Interest Charges	£2,048.45		



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Customer Deposit	£250	Duration of Agreement	49 months
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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Terms and conditions apply, excludes Peugeot GTi models, participating dealers only or visit peugeot.co.uk. Motorline Canterbury Peugeot is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. A guarantee may be required. Over 18's only. Finance provided by and written quotations available from PSA Finance UK Ltd t/a Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. We will introduce you to a limited number of lenders to finance your purchase. All offers available on qualifying vehicles ordered and registered between 01/10/15 and 31/12/15 or until such time as they may be withdrawn by Peugeot at its complete discretion. \*Representative 0% APR is available over 37 months. £500 deposit contribution at participating dealers. The information and images here are based on the current technical data when published. The equipment shown is factory fitted or available as an option at extra cost, depending on the model. As part of a policy of continuous specification improvement, Peugeot reserve the right to modify the technical equipment, options and colours at any time. Calls may be recorded for training purposes. Calls charged at local rate. Information correct at time of going to press. Visit [peugeot.co.uk](http://peugeot.co.uk) for full product details.

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Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 13/11/2015

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Salary: £16,171.66 pro rata

Closing date: 13/11/2015

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- Maths and English GCSE A – C Grade or equivalent
- 2 years working in an administrative environment
- Good working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook.
- Exceptional customer service skills.

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Julie Pain, Administration Supervisor on 01843 234558

For a job description and application form please contact: Justine Whittle, HR Assistant

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## Swale Academies Trust



### Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

## Teaching Assistant

27.08 hours per week, worked over 5 days, term time only

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A post has become available to support pupils who have various difficulties in mainstream classes, a particular interest in the areas of mathematics, science or humanities would be an advantage. Applicants should have the necessary skills to support in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis. Candidates would be expected to have good literacy and numeracy skills, and, as part of the interview, may be asked to demonstrate their skills in supporting pupils.

## Lesson Supervisor

Term time only, 33.3 hours, 5 days a week

Salary starting at £17,475 - £19,222 pa (pro-rata)

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This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence, excellent communication skills and the ability to adapt quickly to a varied and constantly changing routine.

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Required as soon as possible

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Applications are invited for the post of weekend stock-keeper on the School Farm.

Hours of work, 6 hours per weekend. 1 ½ hours morning and afternoon, Saturday and Sunday. This role post could also be shared between two staff working alternate weekends. Applicants should ideally have experience of working with farm animals, and be confident around livestock, including cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Duties will include all aspects of animal welfare, general farm management and necessary medical care.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online ([www.westlands.org.uk](http://www.westlands.org.uk)). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Applicants should include a letter of application detailing how they meet the requirements of the person specification. Closing date: Wednesday 4 November 2015 at noon.

### Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461 - Email [swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk)

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA - Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



### The Westlands School Teaching School Alliance

Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Meopham School, The North School, Pent Valley School,

Westlands Primary School, Regis Manor Primary School, South Borough Primary School, Beaver Green Primary School, Istead Rise Primary School and Rockmount Primary School

### School Direct Teacher Training for the 2016/17 Academic Year

Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, invites high quality graduates interested in a career in teaching to consider the School Direct Training Programme 2016/17. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary or scholarship, subject to status.

Information about training and the application process is available on our website: [www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk](http://www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk)

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality teacher training within a friendly and supportive environment. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate time. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals. Westlands School, the lead training school, is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted and has been awarded Teaching School status.

For preliminary enquiries please email [ef@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ef@westlands.kent.sch.uk) or telephone 07496 972 623.

Only applications made through UCAS Teacher Training, [www.ucas.com/teacher-training](http://www.ucas.com/teacher-training), will be accepted.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732 Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



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## SENIOR REPORTER

We are on the look out for a talented senior reporter to join our team working across Kent on Sunday, the Kentish Times series and our associated websites.

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The successful candidate should also have proven experience on local newspapers, and have NCE qualifications or equivalent experience.

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Please send your completed application form quoting the reference number: RL/ED1575/SRKOS/Oct15 to [londonrecruitment@archant.co.uk](mailto:londonrecruitment@archant.co.uk) along with your CV and a covering letter explaining why you are suitable for the role and what you could bring to our news operation.

**Closing date for completed applications is Friday 6th November 2015.**

Please note that if you have not been invited in for an interview within three weeks of the closing date, then you can assume on this occasion that your application has been unsuccessful.





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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in an area of land, which is for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the area of land consists of or forms part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to Mid Kent Legal Service Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than Friday 13 November 2015.

#### SCHEDULE

Snipe Close and land lying to the south east of Snipe Close, Pembury (approximately 0.033 acres)

Stonecourt Lane, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.113 acres)

Land at Cleavers, Sissinghurst, Cranbrook (approximately 0.163 acres)

Land to the Rear of 40 - 46 Charles Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.026 acres)

Land on the north (West) side of Powder Mill Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.062 acres)

Land on the north (East) side of Powder Mill Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.099 acres)

Land being the site of Oakfield Road, Matfield, Tonbridge, Kent (approximately 0.201 acres)

John Scarborough, Head of Legal Services

Dated 23 October 2015



### Auction Sale

**16th November 2015**

By order of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Land at Snipe Close, Pembury, TN2  
Land at Stone Court Lane, Pembury, TN2  
Land at Oakfield Road, Matfield, TN12  
Land at Powder Mill Lane, TN4  
Land at Cleavers, Sissinghurst, TN17  
Land r/o Charles Street, Southborough, TN4

Please call 0208 741 8088

[www.barnardmarcusauctions.co.uk](http://www.barnardmarcusauctions.co.uk)

### Notice of an Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that WILLSETHAN LTD has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the GRANT of PREMISES LICENCE for Off Sale of Alcohol ONLINE ONLY. No Public Access to the premises. A Storage Unit at Kent Space, Ashford, situated at Kent Space Ashford, Letraset Building, Wotton Road, Kingsnorth Ind Est., Ashford, Kent, TN23 6FL

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by: 20/11/2015

Dated: 22/10/2015

Signed: Ben Foley on behalf of WILLSETHAN LTD.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Stanmore Quality Surfacing Ltd trading as SQS of 12 Priestley Way, London, NW2 7AP is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Platt Industrial Estate, Maidstone Road, Platt, Sevenoaks, TN15 8JL

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.



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# Is Sky the limit for golden girl Lizzy?

Yarnold has been shortlisted for Sportswoman of the Year



**GOLD:** Lizzy Yarnold with her medal from the Winter Olympic Games held in Sochi, Russia, in 2014. Pic: ADY KERRY

## Winter sports

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

OLYMPIC champion Lizzy Yarnold says it's still important for women to be recognised in sport after being shortlisted for a Sportswoman of the Year award.

The West Kingsdown-based skeleton star is up against Lizzie Armitstead, Rachel Atherton, Charlotte Dujardin, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Bianca Walkden for the coveted prize, sponsored by the Sunday Times and Sky Sports, which has been won in the past by the likes of Denise Lewis, Dame Kelly Holmes and Victoria Pendleton.

Yarnold, 27, told KoS: "Everyone that's shortlisted is so different, they're all people I admire hugely, so I'm really happy to be nominated alongside them."

"People ask if we should have our own award but I think it's still really important to have women recognised in the limelight because it just doesn't happen on a weekly basis in the sports section."

"I'd like to think I'm a role model in the sense that I've shown you can be capable in a completely different sport. I always recommend doing an adrenaline sport, and there are so many awesome winter sports out there for people to try."

Yarnold is currently on a season-long break from competition, having made history this year by completing the career grand slam of skeleton titles in a mere 407 days.

"I went to my coaches about taking a break and they were really supportive," she said.

"I was mentally and physically exhausted, it's easy to keep saying

you're fine and carry on, but I had to be brave and say I needed a break so that I can come back even stronger."

Yarnold admitted that she struggled with motivation after striking gold in Sochi, but already has her eyes firmly set on the next Winter Olympics in PyeongChang in 2018.

"It's only two-and-a-half years away, you've always got to have one eye on the big picture and we're already planning for it."

"You look at Charlotte Dujardin and she is constantly getting clean sweeps [in dressage], and I want to emulate that. There's always something to improve, and I'm just going to keep going for as long as I can."

**• The 2015 Sunday Times and Sky Sports Sportswomen of the Year Awards, in association with Vitality, is on Sky Sports 1 and Sky 1 on November 6.**

## Teenage batsman Crawley signs pro contract

KENT have signed up teenage batsman Zak Crawley to his first professional contract.

Crawley, 17, became a regular in the second XI this season, scoring a century against Somerset, and now has his eyes set on a place in the first team set up.

"I'm very pleased," the Tonbridge School student said.

"It's been a goal of mine for the seven years or so that I've been here, so to finally achieve that is very satisfying."

"This is an important first step on the ladder. I want to make it into the first team but that will require a lot of work."

Crawley, born in Bromley, praised the professionalism of Kent's senior squad, and insists they are role models from whom he is looking to learn.



**CONTRACT:** Zak Crawley has signed his first professional deal

"The main two I'd say I look up to in the first team are Rob Key and Sam Billings because they've played

for England which is what I want to do one day."

"Obviously that's a long way off but it's something I want to emulate."

"We don't have a great deal of interaction with the first team in the seconds, but now I'll be training with them a bit more so I'm looking forward to learning from them."

"Rob and Darren Stevens come down on occasions and I try and pick their brains. They're good like that."

Crawley admits juggling his cricket, school work and being a teenager is a struggle, but knows firmly where his priorities lie.

"It is difficult, and you miss out on a few things, but I want to be a top quality professional cricketer."

"The club understand if I'm snowed under and so do school, both institutions are very supportive."

## Sport Shorts

» Email [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk) or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

## Palmer in the driving seat for Lotus F1 team

THE Lotus F1 team has confirmed Jolyon Palmer will be one of its drivers next season, lining up alongside Pastor Maldonado.

Palmer, 24, son of former F1 driver and owner of Brands Hatch, Jonathan Palmer, has driven for the team in the majority of this season's free practice sessions, operating as third and reserve driver.

He joined Lotus F1 in January, following an outstanding GP2 campaign in 2014 where he became the first British driver to win the series since Lewis Hamilton in 2006.

Jolyon Palmer said: "I'm obviously delighted that I'll be racing in Formula 1 next year. Lotus F1 gave me a tremendous opportunity this season and I thank them for assisting my development to a level where they have put their trust in me for a crucial season in their evolution."

"I've enjoyed and learnt a lot from my year as third and reserve driver so I'm looking forward to putting this into practice as a race driver in 2016."



**DRIVER:** Palmer will race for Lotus F1 next season



**HOME:** Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium

## Yeovil to visit Stones in FA Cup first round

THE FA Cup first round draw was made on Monday night, with a number of Kent clubs discovering their fate as sides from League One and Two entered the hat.

National League South side Maidstone will host League Two outfit Yeovil Town after they breezed past Chippenham Town with a 2-0 win last weekend, while table-topping Gillingham, who had received a bye to this stage because of their Football League status, were drawn away at Yeovil's league rivals Stevenage.

Elsewhere, Chris Kinnear's Dover Athletic also received a home tie, against non-league Stourbridge, having left it late to see off Eastbourne Borough on Saturday.

Welling United, meanwhile, will face Barwell after overcoming Grays Athletic in their fourth qualifying round replay on Tuesday.

Bromley and Margate, however, were knocked out of the competition by Eastleigh and Forest Green Rovers respectively last weekend.

The ties will take place across the weekend of November 6-8.

## Jordan joins Motorbase team

ANDREW Jordan has joined the Kent-based Motorbase Performance team for the 2016 campaign.

Jordan, the 2013 champion and 14-times race winner, joins David Bartrum's squad for his ninth BTTC season and believes the Ford Focus ST is one of the strongest on the grid.

He said: "The car is obviously very

quick and looks very well sorted.

"From what I've seen, it looks after its tyres very well and carries the extra weight well."

"David and the team at Motorbase have that passion and determination and I want to arrive at race weekends knowing that we're going to be in a position to challenge for race wins."

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12 62 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr	£7,900	12 12 Nissan Qashqai+2.1.6 Acenta 5d	£10,000
14 14 Ford Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 5dr	£8,700	14 14 Nissan X-Trail 2.0 dCi N-Tec+	£16,800
14 14 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Titanium Powershift	£10,500	13 13 Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Active 5dr	£4,500
14 14 Ford Focus 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec	£10,800	12 62 Peugeot 208 1.4 HDi FAP Access	£5,600
13 63 Ford Focus 1.0 SCTi EcoBoost Zetec	£9,300	13 63 Renault Captur 0.9 Tce Dynamique	£10,200
12 62 Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Titanium	£10,000	14 14 Renault Captur 1.5 DCi ENERGY	£10,500
10 10 Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi DPFTitanium	£6,800	13 63 Renault Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique	£7,700
13 13 Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi Titanium	£14,600	12 62 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 CDTi Exclusiv	£10,400
11 61 Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec	£5,500	12 62 Vauxhall Astra 1.4i VVT 16v Exclusiv	£7,300
14 64 Ford Kuga 2.0 TDCi Titanium X	£19,000	12 62 Vauxhall Astra 1.6i VVT 16v SRI	£8,200
14 64 Ford Kuga 2.0 TDCi Zetec Powershift	£17,400	12 62 Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4i Turbo	£8,500
12 12 Kia Picanto 1.25 2 5dr	£5,500	14 14 Vauxhall Astra GTC 2.0 CDTi 16	£11,800
10 10 Kia Sportage 2.0 CRDi XS 2WD 5	£7,400	08 58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 16v Active	£4,000
12 62 MINI Countryman 2.0 SD Cooper	£14,400	14 64 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 16v SE 5dr	£7,500
12 12 MINI Hatch Cooper 1.6 Cooper L	£8,300	14 64 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16v SXi 3dr	£7,200
14 14 Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium	£11,400	13 13 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v	£10,400
14 14 Nissan Juke 1.6 Visia 5dr	£9,400	14 14 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite	£14,200
12 62 Nissan Micra 1.2 Acenta AC CD	£7,200	14 14 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRI	£14,700
12 62 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 DCi N-Tec+	£11,100	15 15 Vauxhall Mokka 1.4 T Turbo SE 16v	£15,600
12 62 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 DCi Tekna 5	£13,000	14 14 Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi 16v SE	£14,700
12 62 Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr	£10,400	12 12 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6i VVT 16v Design	£7,800



14 14 Plate  
Ford Focus  
1.6 Zetec

Representative Example	
60 Monthly Payments	£179.00
Deposit	£99.00
Cash Price	£8,995.00
Amount of Credit	£1,844.00
Total Amount Payable	£10,839.00
Representative	7.9%APR

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Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Terms and conditions apply, see dealer for details. F.G. Barnes & Sons Limited is a credit broker and not a lender. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. \*Minimum loan of £5,000 to qualify for cashback when financed through Santander consumables finance. £500 cashback will be issued as a cheque after completion of delivery of your car. Available to 18s and over. Guarantee / indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer Finance RH1 1SR. **You will not own the vehicle until all repayments are made.** Please ask for further details.

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- LED Lights
- Bluetooth
- DAB Radio
- USB Port
- Smartphone Integration

### MG 3 Match 1.5 VTi Tech Sport 5dr

Representative Example

60 Monthly Payments	£159	Amount of Credit	£9540
Deposit	NIL	Total Amount Payable	£9540
Cash Price	£9540	Representative	0% APR



- Partial Leather Seats
- Sat Nav
- Bluetooth
- USB Ports
- Auto Wipers & Light

### MG6 TS

35 Monthly Payments	£249.01	GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,911.75
1 Initial Payment	£248.90	Total Amount Payable	£16,125.00
Deposit	£1,249.00	Borrowing Rate	0.00%
Cash Price	£16,125.00	Representative	0%APR
Amount of Credit	£14,876.00	Excess mileage, based on 6,000 miles per annum	
Doc & Option Fee	£0.00	Excess mileage charged at 14.9 pence per mile	
Interest Charges	£0.00		



## MAIDSTONE MG



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MG3 Fuel consumption mpg (l/100km) for MG3 Range: Urban: 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 136 g/km. MG6 Fuel Consumption mpg (l/100km): DTi-TECH Urban: 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban: 64.2 (4.4), Magnette: 59.0 (4.4), Combined: 57.6 (4.9), CO<sub>2</sub> Mass Emission (Combined) 129 g/km. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Car shown for illustration purposes only. F.G. Barnes & Sons Limited is a credit broker and not a lender. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Available to 18s and over. Guarantee / indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer Finance RH1 1SR. **You will not own the vehicle until all repayments are made.** Please ask for further details.